MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 MARCH 1981

Pakistan

Citing an official spokesman, Karachi radio reported that the Pakistani Government has agreed to release 55 prisoners as demanded by the hijackers of a Pakistani airliner now in Damascus, on the condition that the hijackers make no further demands and release the hostages and aircraft immediately. Six of the 55 prisoners are not in custody, the spokesman noted, and their whereabouts are not known. When they are found they will also be allowed to leave Pakistan, he added. The radio also reported that in a message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that the offer will lapse automatically if the hijackers harm any of their hostages.

According to a later Karachi radio report, Pakistani Ambassador to Syria Sarafaraz Khan told newsmen in Damascus that no deadline has been set for the release and transfer of the prisoners and hostages. All that remains to be done, he said, is to work out the procedures, and there is "no chance of any difficulty" in doing this. Delhi radio quoted the ambassador as saying that the hijackers want their prisoners and families to be flown to Libya and that the Pakistani authorities would agree to this. According to SANA, the hijackers had earlier threatened to kill the American passengers on board the plane if their demands were not met by 1600 GMT on 12 March. They claimed to have information proving that the Americans are U.S. intelligence agents.

Afghanistan

A DRA Government statement carried by BAKHTAR has accused the United States of openly siding with Afghan "counterrevolutionaries." Criticizing President Ronald Reagan's 9 March remark that the United States would consider a request for arms from the Afghan rebels, the statement added that "interference into the affairs of the DRA" has become official U.S. policy. This, it said, is a "crude and flagrant" violation of international law and the UN Charter. The statement added, however, that the days when the United States could "dictate its will" are gone and that its "adventurist" plans are doomed to fail. Citing a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman, AFP reported that Pakistan will not allow the shipment of U.S. arms through its territory to Afghan rebels fighting the DRA Government. The spokesman added that his government is trying to secure a peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem and therefore does not intend to become involved in an armed conflict.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Cease-Fire Deadline--In a statement to SPA, Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti expressed regret that, because of conditions raised by both Iran and Iraq, it is not possible for them to reach a cease-fire by the 13 March deadline stipulated in the Islamic good offices committee peace proposal. He added that the committee will continue its efforts to resolve the conflict.

Ramadan Interview--In an interview with the Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH, published on 10 March, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan reiterated that Iraqi withdrawal from Iranian territory will begin only after a cease-fire is established and agreement is reached on the "legitimate rights" of both sides and on noninterference in each other's internal affairs. "Not one" Iraqi soldier will be withdrawn, he stressed, until Iran "recognizes Iraq's rights fully." He asserted that both Iran and Iraq have abrogated the 1975 Algiers agreement on control of the Shatt al-'Arab and on border demarcation and that Iraq "will not go back to it." He added, however, that it could provide the framework for a new agreement. Referring to the Iranian province of Khuzestan, which Iraq calls "Arabistan," Ramadan said that although Iraq does not want to annex it, Arabistan's people are Arab and the Iranian Government must grant them their rights. The Greater and Lesser Tunb Islands and Abu Musa Island are also Arab, he said, and "must return to Arab hands."

Iran

Tehran radio reported that the Defense Ministry and gendarmerie are to "completely change" the conscription law. Citing the chief of the "draft department," the radio said military service will be extended to 2 years and a system of rewards and punishments will be introduced. Students who completed their military service in 1977 are to be recalled to active service, the department chief said.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 049 *13 March 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat Heads Higher Coordination Meeting 12 Mar [VOP] A 1
Fatah Central Committee Holds Meeting 8 Mar [VOP] A 1
PLO Executive Committee Supports Teachers Strike [VOP] A 1
'Arafat Stresses Importance of European Support [VOP] A 2
'Arafat Attends Farewell Party for UK Ambassador A 2
[London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 11 Mar]

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

ARAB TIMES Denounces U.S. Buildup of Diego Garcia C 1
Paper Deplores Arms Deals With Morocco, Algeria C 1
[AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM 7 Mar]

UAE

Palestinian Official Arrives in Abu Dhabi 9 Mar C 2
Meets With President C 2
12 Mar Departure C 3
Editorial Urges Lebanese Action Against Israel C 3
[AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I 5 Mar]

PDRY

Soviet Delegation Arrives for Economic Talks C 4
PFLO Radio Comments on U.S. Presence in Oman C 4
Ambassador Praises PDRY-Mongolian Relations C 5

EGYPT

AL-JUMHURIYAH Views Combatting of Soviet Influence D 1
Romania's Trofin Meets Mubarak, Conducts Talks [Bucharest] D 1
'Ali Meets Ambassadors of Norway, Sweden, Denmark D 1
Italian Delegation Leader Comments on Egypt Visit D 2
Commentator Supports Egyptian Mideast Policy D 2
Commander Views Air Force's Role,Capabilities D 3

IRAQ

Tariq 'Aziz Holds Press Conference in Vienna E 1
Saudi Paper Interviews Deputy Premier on Gulf War E 1
[Jidda AL-JAZIRAH 10 Mar]
Armed Forces General Command Communique 273 E 4
Briefs: Uruguayan Political Delegation; Ar-Rutah Highway Contract E 5

LEBANON

Minister Responds to Speech by PLO's Khalaf G 1
Size of Projected U.S. Aid to Lebanon Criticized G 2
[London AL-HAWADITH 6 Mar]

SYRIA

Hijackers' Demands Accepted; Presidents Converse H 1
Ziaul Haq Phones Al-Asad H 1
Waldheim Phones Al-Asad H 1
Libyan Delegation, At-Turayki Leave Damascus H 1
Al-Ahmar Views USSR Ties in MOSCOW NEWS Interview H 2

ISRAEL

Shamir Comments on U.S. Trip, Arms Issue I 1
Knesset Committee Remarks I 1
MA'ARIV Interview [13 Mar] I 1
Television Interview I 3
Concern Over U.S. Sale of AWACS Reported I 9
[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 13 Mar]
Israel-Egypt Military Committee Meeting Canceled I 10
U.S. Technology To Be Requested for Lavi Plane I 10
[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 12 Mar]

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

Paper Says U.S. Hindering Law of Sea Agreement Q 1
[AL-FAJR AL-JADID 5 Mar]
Iraqi Purges, Arrest of Ahmad Al-Bakr Reported Q 1
Iranian Statement Said To Warn of Internal Chaos Q 1
Nicaraguan Ministers Depart, Statement Issued Q 1
12 Mar Departure Q 1
Joint Statement Q 2
Paper Outlines Tasks of Revolutionary Committees Q 3
[London AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR 6 Mar]

MOROCCO

Prime Minister Comments on Sahara, Chad Issues Q 5
OTRAG Reportedly To Supply Missiles to Libya Q 6
OTRAG Denial Q 6

TUNISIA

Claim of Israeli Scientific Cooperation Denied Q 6

EAST AFRICA

DJIBOUTI

Foreign Minister Receives Kuwaiti Delegation R 1

ETHIOPIA

Siaka Stevens Visits, Meets With Mengistu R 1
OAU Headquarters Inspection R 1
Stevens-Mengistu Talks R 1
Foreign Minister Holds Talks With Olivier Stirn R 3
Eritrean Administrator Visits Drought-Hit Province R 3
EPLF 'Destroys' Two Urban Dwellers' Associations R 4
[Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea]
Tigre People's Front Notes March Casualties R 4
[Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea]
Briefs: Soviet Aid R 4

SOMALIA

Radio Kulmis Cites Rebel Opposition to Siad Barre R 4
WSLF Reports on February, March Successes R 5
20 Feb Battle R 5
[Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts]
9 Mar Report R 5
[Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts]
22 Feb, 2 Mar Encounters R 6
[Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts]
8 Mar Clash R 6
[Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts]

BRIEFS

Kenyan Diplomatic Activity; Tanzanian Official; Cuban Aid to Uganda; Ugandan Envoy to U.S.; Ugandan Party Officials R 6

CENTRAL AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Dacko Opponents Allege Fraudulent Maneuvers S 1
Ange Patasse Calls for French Army Neutrality S 1

GABON

Bongo Address to Nation on Party Anniversary S 2

ZAIRE

Kolwezi Officials Ban Illegal Religious Sects S 2

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

Sierra Leone's Stevens Pays Visits, Comments T 1
Ghanaian Deaths in Abidjan Jail Spark Protests T 1
Official Protest T 1
Legistators' Remarks T 1

IVORY COAST

Military Maneuvers With France End 12 Mar T 2

SENEGAL

Guinea-Bissau's Vieira Expected To Arrive 14 Mar T 3
Guinea-Bissau Opposition Group To Disband T 3

UPPER VOLTA

Decrees Published on Travel Permit Procedures T 4

BRIEFS

IDB Aid to Niger T 5

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Luanda Paper Criticizes 'Adventurist' U.S. Policy U 1
Briefs: Oil Production Increase; Education Agreement With GDR U 1

MADAGASCAR

President Studies Rice Production Problems U 1
Opposition Party To Rejoin National Front U 2

MOZAMBIQUE

Joint Commission With Angola Meets in Maputo U 2
Joint Commission With Tanzania Session Opens U 2
Ministry Confirms Detention of Two U.S. Citizens U 3
NOTICIAS Publishes Statement by ANC Militant U 3
Briefs: Soviet Development Projects; Floods in Manica Province U 3

SOUTH AFRICA

Botha Statements on UN Boycott Impact Reported U 4
Johannesburg Notes 'Watershed' in U.S. Policy U 4
Johannesburg Cites Angolan Editorial on UNITA U 5
Army Reports 58 Terrorists Killed in 2 Weeks U 5
Briefs: Trade With Israel; Anti-SWAPO Actions U 5

ZAMBIA

TIMES OF ZAMBIA Responds to U.S. Envoy's Letter U 6
Knowledge of Lesotho Opposition Activities Denied U 7

ZIMBABWE

Yugoslav Daily Interviews Mugabe on Nonalignment [TANJUG] U 7
Minister's Remarks on Return From American Tour U 7
Trade Minister Smith To Relinquish Office U 8
Briefs: Trade Agreement With Mozambique U 8

'ARAFAT HEADS HIGHER COORDINATION MEETING 12 MAR

JN130728 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] The Higher Coordination Committee convened under brother commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] last night. The committee discussed the tense situation in southern Lebanon following the Zionist military escalation, the domestic situation and ways of tackling it. The committee also studied the Arab situation in light of the recent developments.

FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE HOLDS MEETING 8 MAR

JN090828 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 9 Mar 81

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee held a meeting yesterday afternoon in the presence of Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Afafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

The conferees discussed the current situation on the local, Arab and international levels and reviewed in detail the situation in the occupied homeland, the heroic steadfastness of our people against occupation and the daily acts of oppression and terrorism against our people. The committee also reviewed the tours made by Fatah Central Committee members to several countries, the talks they held and the efforts they exerted in these countries.

The committee also reviewed the results of the At-Ta'if Islamic Conference, the Nonaligned Conference and the Palestinian-Syrian summit meeting [word indistinct]. The committee also studied the organizational situation of the Fatah movement and adopted several decisions and measures. It also discussed the escalation of the Israeli military aggression against southern Lebanon and adopted several decisions and measures to counter this escalation and foil it.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUPPORTS TEACHERS STRIKE

JN101744 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 10 Mar 81

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee met this morning under Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The conferees discussed the latest developments on the current situation and the military escalation against southern Lebanon.

The Executive Committee reviewed the teachers strike in the occupied territories which is now in its third month. The strike had been staged to protest against the teachers' low standard of living resulting from the economic deterioration and inflation which the Zionist entity is suffering and against the racial discrimination and exploitation the Zionist authorities are exercising against our people to force those with scientific abilities to leave the occupied territories.

The Executive Committee appreciates the stand of national institutions such as municipal councils, professional and trade unions and the various sectors of our people which have supported the teachers in their just confrontation of the oppression, injustice and racial discrimination which the Zionist occupiers are practicing. All this confirms that, despite all the pressures that the Zionist authorities may exert, they will never succeed in controlling this important sector of our people.

The Executive Committee, which appreciates the teachers' stand, pledges to them that it will support them and calls on all Arab and international, popular and governmental educational organizations to support the teachers and to denounce the repressive measures which the Zionist occupiers are practicing against our national institutions with the objective of destroying them and paralyzing their mission.

'ARAFAT STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF EUROPEAN SUPPORT

NC131304 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has emphasized that an independent Palestinian state will be established on the land of Palestine, the only place where our people could live.

In a statement he made to the French magazine PARIS MATCH, Brother Abu 'Ammar said that France must persuade Europe to adopt a positive stand on the Middle East. He added that Europe, in particular, must take an important step by recognizing the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. Brother Abu 'Ammar pointed out that the intransigent U.S. stand on the establishment of the Palestinian state is a factor of instability in the Middle East.

'ARAFAT ATTENDS FAREWELL PARTY FOR UK AMBASSADOR

LD111701 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 11 Mar 81 p 10

[Report by "our diplomatic staff": "Envoy's Send-off"]

[Text] Mr Benjamin Strachan, British ambassador in Beirut, has been given a remarkable send-off by Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian chief, in a move which marks the new relationship between Britian and the PLO.

Among the usual shower of invitations always sent to departing ambassadors was one from Mr Shafiq al-Hut, official PLO representative in Lebanon. Mr Strachan, an experienced Arabist, decided to attend the party.

With no surprise to anyone Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO and leader of Fatah, the guerrilla group, chose to attend.

"It was just a jolly social evening," said one British diplomat who went to the party. In London, Foreign Office spokesmen were at pains to point out the previous occasions on which British envoys had met Mr 'Arafat.

At the same time it was clear that the PLO leader's presence at the party for Mr Strachan was a deliberate move intended to underline the steady shift in British policy.

KUWAIT

ARAB TIMES DENOUCNES U.S. BUILDUP OF DIEGO GARCIA

LD121348 Kuwait KUNA in English 1036 GMT 12 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Mar (KUNA)--APAB TIMES on the U.S. Diego Garcia base:

The Reagan administration's announcement that it plans to spend up to 100 million dollars for strengthening the Diego Garcia base has grave significance because it comes at a time when tensions are escalating in the region and political feuds are mounting rather than lessening.

Clearly, the Reagan administration is planning to enlarge the base facilities and link it up with its global chain of military bases, possible leading to the permanent stationing of the American naval and air fleets at Diego Garcia.

There is some justification in the American claim that the Diego Garcia expansion follows the introduction of Soviet troops in Afghanistan and the international fears that this has raised. But the Western response to this Soviet provocation was already provided in strength when a huge international naval armada was stationed in the Arabian Sea much closer to the theatre of the Soviet operations. Besides, the Diego Garcia base had existed much before the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Therefore the conclusion is inescapable that the Soviet move in Afghanistan has provided the United States with a flimsy excuse--rather than a provocation--to justify its own military expansion, in defiance of the wishes of the littoral states of the region.

The Reagan administration ought not to have any illusions that a move like this will serve peace, it will only intensify big power rivalry in the region, whereas what the regional countries want is to have it declared as a zone of peace, through the United Nations.

PAPER DEPLORES ARMS DEALS WITH MOROCCO, ALGERIA

LD111519 Kuwait AR-RA'AMM in Arabic 7 Mar 81 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "The Saharan War and Serving American Aims"]

[Text] A few days ago the U.S. administration informed Congress that it had decided to sell 108 Patton tanks costing $128 million to Morocco. The American Government said that this deal "serves the aims of American foreign policy."

Earlier, the United States had agreed to sell Algeria a number of huge military transport planes in the wake of Algeria's successful mediation resulting in the release of the American hostages in Tehran. Although Washington did not on this occasion say that the deal served its aims, it would certainly say that should it occur to anybody to ask it to justify its deal with Algeria.

However, the important question is why do the Arabs themselves give the United States the means to "serve the aims of its foreign policy" when it is obvious that these American aims serve no purpose other than to disunite eastern and western Arab forces and to weaken them by making it necessary for them to arm themselves, instead of devoting their efforts to developing themselves and building their intrinsic power.

But how can the latter be possible when war is raging in the Arab Maghreb between brothers with the aim of separating part of the Moroccan states--the desert--from that state? How can this be achieved when we see that those who inherit the slogans of unity and progress are the ones who are waging the war for partition and Washington Arab strength in all the Maghreb states to the detriment of the area's peoples, their livelihood and their aspiration for self-sufficiency and development?

This not only means that the forces of the Arab Maghreb states are being wasted, but it also means that these forces' role is neutralized--the role of constituting part of the Arab confrontation forces in the east and of adding their military, material and economic weight to the joint Arab action to implement Arab rights in the usurped Arab territory and thereby lay the foundations for the development and progress in the entire Arab area.

We are really surprised that the combatants are continuing the war when they can see the direct effect it is having on their countries--enfeeblement, weakness and disintegration--as well as the effect it is having on the Arab situation in general and on the Arab confrontation ability in the international arena, particularly in relation to the Zionist enemy.

Of course, the most astonishing thing is that those who have clung to the slogans of unity from roaring ocean to raging Gulf and of war against American imperialism and colonialism are themselves the ones who are providing the United States with the opportunity to "serve the aims of its foreign policy" by sending arms to Morocco, which pays for them at its people's expense.

It is obvious that in sending these arms the United States wants the war to continue because, by giving tanks to Morocco and planes to Algeria whenever the means of warfares--the arms--run out, it is seeking the continuation of the war and is thereby achieving the aims of its foreign policy. [As far as America is concerned] war in the Arab Maghreb is necessary in order to preoccupy the Maghreb and to weaken and exhaust its forces while the disputes among the states in the Arab east, in their turn, surely serve the aims of American foreign policy.

Thus we regrettably discover that all Arab actions, whether consciously or out of ignorance, serve the American aims of seeing the Arabs crushed, disunited and fighting each other, without the time to cooperate or the power to assert themselves and defend the usurped rights.

In fact, this is a lesson to the Arabs--that is, if they want to or can learn it.

UAE

PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI 9 MAR

JN091512 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1220 GMT 9 Mar 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Mar (GNA)--Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Fatah Central Committee member, arrived in Abu Dhabi today from Kuwait on a 3-day visit to the UAE as part of a tour of the region. He will hold talks with UAE officials on Palestinian developments on the Arab and international levels.

Meets With President

JN111050 Doha QNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Mar (QNA)--UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan received today Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Fatah Central Committee member, who is currently visiting the UAE. The meeting was attended by Ahmad as-Suwaydi, the UAE president's adviser.

The two sides reviewed recent Palestinian developments on both the Arab and international levels and the situation in southern Lebanon.

Abu Mazin arrived in Abu Dhabi the day before yesterday on a 3-day official visit to the UAE as part of a tour of several states in the region to brief officials in these states on recent Palestinian developments on both the Arab and international levels.

12 Mar Departure

JN122045 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2020 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Mar (GNA)--Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Fatah Central Committee member, left Abu Dhabi for Riyadh this evening following a 3-day visit to the UAE as part of his current tour of states in the region.

In a predeparture statement Abu Mazin said that he had held talks with UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Ahmad as-Suwaydi, the UAE president's adviser, on matters related to the Palestine cause, in light of the circumstances through which the Arab region is passing. He said that he discussed also relations between the PLO and the UAE.

The PLO official praised the constant support of the UAE under leadership of Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan to the Palestine Cause.

On the developments in the situation in Lebanon, Abu Mazin said that the situation is tense because of the continuous Israeli aggression against south Lebanon.

Concluding his statement Abu Mazin praised the steadfastness of Palestinian teachers in the occupied land, adding that their strike expresses their indignation and the bad situation in which they find themselves under Zionist occupation.

EDITORIAL URGES LEBANESE ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL

LD111315 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 5 Mar 81 p 1

[Editorial: "Instead of Waiting for the Aggression"]

[Excerpts] The new warning needs people to heed it and then move to another phase--the phase of preparations and readiness to take the necessary measures.

The warning to which we are referring is that which has been repeated by Lebanese and Palestinian sources since the end of last year about a possible new Israeli aggression against south Lebanon which is expected to be similar to the invasion of south Lebanon in March 1968.

If Arab silence tempts Israel to commit a fresh aggression, ought not the warning of imminent aggression spur us into taking action and trying to prevent the aggression from taking place? This is possible and can be done. Every large-scale Israeli aggression is launched only after it is given the green light by Washington and is blessed by the American Pentagon. Can we not ask Washington to stop the aggression before it is launched? Washington is nowadays swamping the world with talks about what it calls "its interests" in the Middle East. Are American interests safeguarded by Washington giving the green light to Israel to commit a new aggression with American weapons against the Arabs, in whose countries and territories America says its interests lie? The answers to these questions should come from our Arab capitals before we look for answers in the American capital and before the following poetic verse applies to us: "I advised them but they did not heed by advice until it was too late." I hope that we will heed the warning from Lebanon so that we will prove to those who made the warning that it has been heard and that they have appealed to living people.

PDRY

SOVIET DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR ECONOMIC TALKS

LD121630 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Mordinov, chairman [title as heard] of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations in the Soviet Union, arrived in Aden this morning to lead his country's delegation to the meetings of the Soviet-Yemeni Standing Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation between the two friendly countries.

He told the ADEN NEWS AGENCY that these meetings, which commenced today, are of considerable importance because they coincide with the implementation of the Yemeni and Soviet 5-year plans. He explained that he will take this opportunity of his presence in our country to hold a number of meetings with party and state officials concerning the development of economic and technical cooperation between our country and the Soviet Union in agriculture, fisheries, energy, industry and other spheres.

At the end of his statement he expressed his full confidence that the committee's meetings will cement the relations existing between the two friendly countries. Comrade Mordvinov was received at the airport by Dr Faraj ibn Ghanim, minister of planning, and a number of officials in the ministry.

PFLO RADIO COMMENTS ON U.S. PRESENCE IN OMAN

LD122042 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 12 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The American secretary of defense said in a television interview last Sunday that the United States has a military presence in the Sultanate of Oman which contols the strategic Strait of Hormuz through which passes more than 60 percent of the West's petroleum requirements. He added: We must increase this presence.

The Kuwait newspaper, AS-SIYASAH, has said that the aggressive American unit which participated in the military maneuvers which took place during the past weeks in Omani territory is composed of 200 experts specializing in communications, in addition to a large force of American troops.

The newspaper stressed that the military installations which will be set up in Oman within the framework of the facilities granted by the authorities of the agent regime in Muscat to the American administration for the purpose of the rapid intervention force, are four main projects: The first military project will be set up by the American forces on Masirah Island where there is a British air base. The second project will be set up in the Thamarit area in Dhufar. Work is scheduled to be completed on this in 1974. As for the third military project, it will be set up at As-Sib airport, near the Oman capital, Muscat; while the fourth American military project will be set up in the Musandam area which overlooks the Strait of Hormuz. It will include the presence of dangerous nuclear weapons.

Brothers, what was uttered by the American secretary of defense and what the Kuwait newspapers wrote about recently makes the talk about keeping the Gulf area free from international tension--as was mentioned in the statements of the agent Qabus information minister--nothing but talk for daily consumption.

The agent Muscat regime's opening wide of Oman's doors to legions of the American aggressive invaders is nothing but a contribution to raising the tension in the area and causing it to live in an atmosphere of permanent fear, particularly as the weapons which the United States will plant on Omani territory include destructive nuclear weapons. This is the danger itself.

The agent Qabus and his ministers, after concluding military agreements with America and Britain, has become nothing but puppets in the hands of the world imperialist forces. Therefore, giving credence to their sayings, as far as our Omani masses are concerned, is to be faced with mockery and scorn, experience having proved the falsehood of everything that they state.

If the agent Qabus and his supporters believe that the American and British military presence in Oman will protect them from the wrath of the Omani people who are looking forward to freedom and true independence, then this belief is nothing but an illusion whose error coming events and the future course of things will demonstrate.

AMBASSADOR PRAISES PDRY-MONGOLIAN RELATIONS

LD121648 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Dalhyn Lubsanrinchin, nonresident ambassador of the People's Republic of Mongolia in Aden, has praised the efforts being made by the PDRY to eradicate the vestiges of the past and build a new society on the road to noncapitalist development. At a press conference he held today on the occasion of the 60th anniersary of the founding of the People's Republic of Mongolia, he expressed Mongolia's support for these efforts.

The Mongolian ambassador denounced the imperialist military presence in the Arabian Gulf area, the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Horn of Africa. He expressed the support of people's Mongolia for the proposals of Leonid Brezhnev, secretary general of the CPSU and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, concerning the establishment of security and stability in the area.

It is worth mentioning that Democratic Yemen and people's Mongolia are linked by relations of cooperation and friendship. An agricultural agreement between the two countries was signed 2 years ago. The Mongolian ambassador declared at the press conference that a cultural agreement will be signed between the two countries. A cooperation protocol will also be signed between the Yemeni Socialist Party and the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

AL-JUMHURIYAH VIEWS COMBATING OF SOVIET INFLUENCE

NC130850 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 13 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Correct Approach To Confront the Soviets," AL-JUMHURIYAH says in its editorial today: No one objects to President Reagan's administration rearranging its policy priorities according to its interests and to place the question of combating Soviet influence in the Middle East at the top of these priorities. The paper says: We agree with this priority of this issue if the approach of the U.S. policy to it is correct. The correct approach, in our opinion, involves two things: the first is to accomplish a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem, including, of course, recognition of Palestinian rights. The second is to reinforce the defense capabilities of the Middle East countries that form the first line of defense in the face of Soviet intervention, and foremost of these countries is Egypt.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: The Soviets established a foothold in the Middle East with the start of the Arab-Israeli conflict and reinforced their presence with its intensification. The Soviet presence and influence have increased with the increase in the possibility of an Arab-Israeli confrontation. It is obvious that the Soviets can be removed through the same door from which they entered the area. Settling the Middle East problem will provide an era of stability and security in all the countries of the area, leaving no justiification for a Soviet presence.

The paper concludes: By virtue of the huge spiritual heritage they possess, the countries and peoples of the Middle East can better confront and stop the Soviet incursion. They only need weapons, and this is what the United States should take into consideration.

ROMANIA'S TROFIN MEETS MUBARAK, CONDUCTS TALKS

AU121532 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1400 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Husni Mubarak, vice president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, has received Comrade Virgil Trofin, deputy prime minister, minister of mines, petroleum and geology and chairman of the Romanian side of the Joint Romanian-Egyptian Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation, who is in Cairo to attend the commission session.

The Romanian guest also conducted talks with 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Wajid, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, finance and economy and chairman of the Egyptian side in the joint commission; Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, deputy prime minister and minister of petroleum; and Muhammad Taha Zaki, minister of industry and mineral resources. The two sides examined opportunities for further developing relations of friendship between Romania and Egypt at various levels, especially in the field of economic cooperation in conformity with the decisions and recommendations made during the summit meetings between Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. They stressed with satisfaction that the major targets agreed upon for 1980 have been achieved under favorable conditions.

'ALI MEETS AMBASSADORS OF NORWAY, SWEDEN, DENMARK

NC121821 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today met with the ambassadors of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Our reporter Hamdi Jawhar has sent us the following report:

[Begin recording] During these meetings the talks centered on the topics which the deputy prime minister and foreign minister will discuss during the visit which he will make to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland and Belgium next week.

During the visit, which will last 2 weeks, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister will carry private messages from President Anwar as-Sadat to the kings and president of these states. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister also discussed with the ambassadors the question of the formation of the mutlinational force that will supervise Israel's withdrawal from Egyptian territory in accordance with the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. [end recording]

ITALIAN DELEGATION LEADER COMMENTS ON EGYPT VISIT

NC130944 Cairo MENA in English 0920 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, March 13--(MENA)--Deputy Chairman of the Italian Parliament and head of the delegation which recently visited Egypt, Vito Scalia, expressed full conviction that the only way to achieve stability in Europe is the endorsement of peace in the Middle East. In an exclusive interview with the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY the Italian official pointed out President as-Sadat's speech before the European Parliament and said that it clearly expressed Egypt's will for establishing relations with Europe. He affirmed that within the European frame Italy is the closest country to Egypt not only because it is near to Egypt geographically, but also for the deep-rooted civilization of each of the two countries and their joint traditions.

The Italian official further said that the visit of the Italian delegation to Egypt was crowned with success and met its ends. He added his talks with senior Egyptian officials namely--Vice-President Husni Mubarak, Deputy Premier Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib--were carried out within an atmosphere of frankness and courtesy and that all issues of joint interest were discussed.

Among issues discussed during the meetings were environment pollution and means to protect the Mediterranean basin against pollution. He further said that the two sides viewpoints were identical on all issues discussed during meetings.

COMMENTATOR SUPPORTS EGYPTIAN MIDEAST POLICY

NC121620 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Usamah 'Ali al-Ghani commentary "The Dimensions of Egypt's Political Activity"]

[Text] At a meeting with the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, President Anwar as-Sadat defined the dimensions and aspects of Egypt's political activity in the coming stage of the march of peace in the Middle East. Since the beginning of the march of peace Egypt, in its activity to achieve the objectives of this march, has remained clearly faithful to the framework for peace agreements and to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, dedicating its efforts to implementing these agreements in letter and spirit.

This is in line with the nature of Egypt's activity from the outset. Egypt has begun the march of peace from a position of strength, knowing the true causes of the conflict in the Middle East. Knowing that the Palestinian issue is the crux of the conflict, Egypt has insisted on linking every effort to establish comprehensive peace to a solution of this issue. Egypt's adherence to the need for a just solution of the Palestinian issue is a commitment for the sake of which it fought four wars during which it sacrificed men and money. Out of this commitment Egypt has also launched its peace offensive while rejecting any measures that conflict with or undermine the rights of the Palestinian people.

As a result of this vigilant and continuous Egyptian political activity, memorable achievements have been realized. Thanks to this continuous activity, it has been possible to induce all the influential forces all over the world to show interest in the Middle East issue. The United States has adhered to its role as a full partner in the peace efforts.

The Egyptian activity has also achieved a better understanding by the European Community, which now expresses support for Egypt's attitude. This activity has also succeeded in Africa, Lati America and inside the Nonaligned Movement. All the friendly countries have played a pioneering role in supporting Egypt's political activity.

Egypt's activity is now entering a new stage in completing the liberation of Sinai and the rest of the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. Egypt will continue to pursue its steady and active efforts in all arenas in order to achieve its strategic objectives. Egypt will not abandon these efforts. It is capable of doing this because it has broken all the shackles that tried to isolate it and because it has taken its issue into its own hands and has foiled all the plots of the haters and auctioneers.

COMMANDER VIEWS AIR FORCE'S ROLE, CAPABILITIES

NC111059 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2248 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)--Air Force Commander Maj Gen (Muhammad Lutfi Shabanah) has stated that U.S.-made F-16 planes will start arriving in Egypt in March 1982. He has also pointed out that the air force will receive a large share of the allocations earmarked for the armed forces. In a special interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH, to be published in tomorrow's issue, the air force commander said that the assertions made by some people to the effect that we have granted airbases to the United States indicate that these people do not comprehend the meaning of the liberty in which Egypt is presently basking. He added that our policy has been announced by President as-Sadat and that Egyptian sovereignty is not to be disregarded. The air force commander said that on the basis of this policy the granting of airbases to the United States is something that cannot happen. But it is possible that a U.S. force can arrive in Egypt for a certain purpose; that is, to hold joint exercises with the Egyptian forces in a predetermined place and for a limited time to be agreed upon prior to the U.S. force's arrival and under specified conditions to be drawn up by us. These conditions would cover the movements of the forces and planes and would also place them under our continuous control.

The air force commander said that such exercises have taken place twice to date and that everything has gone according to plan and with full understanding. He added that we and the other side have both benefited from the joint exercises and that the aim of these exercises has been achieved.

The air force commander noted the air force's role in confronting the Soviet challenge, which included the Soviets' cutting off of spare parts to Egypt. He added that despite the Soviet ban on exporting spare parts and despite the fact that the service period of some types of aircraft has ended, some aircraft made in the Eastern Bloc are still operating very efficiently, as a result of the efforts made by specialized air force personnel. In addition, they have also manufactured many spare parts in air force workshops, as well as made many improvements to increase their aircraft's combat capabilities.

The air force commander stressed the importance of diversifying sources of arms, pointing out that diversification of these sources between East and West has enormous advantages; for example, the ability to choose the types of aircraft and weapons that conform to the air force's requirements. The role of our men is to draw up sound plans aimed at using the various types of aircraft for combat purposes and at utilizing the advantages of each type so as to realize the best combat capabilities of the entire air force.

Concluding his interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH, the commander said that the air force is forever working to maintain its combat readiness by several means--the most important of which is continuous training under combat conditions. Others include upkeeping, rebuilding and developing the aircraft and their equipment and maintaining their serviceability.

TARIQ 'AZIZ HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN VIENNA

JN121745 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Vienna, 12 Mar (INA)--Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, has expressed satisfaction over the good results attained by his talks with Austrian officials. He stressed Iraq's eagerness to set up strong bilateral relations.

In a press conference held here today, 'Aziz reiterated Iraq's inalienable rights over its territories which are occupied by Iran by force. He also reiterated Iraq's full sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab. He explained that Iraq had no desire to wage war against Iran because it is interested in developing the country and is eager to insure peace in the area, supporting the principles of nonalignment and cooperation with other countries.

The deputy prime minister said: Ever since it assumed power in Iran, the regime in Tehran has never stopped threatening Iraq's safety and security as well as that of neighboring Arab countries. The Iranian regime has refused to negotiate the demarcation of borders between the two countries and has continued its aggressive policy against the Arab nation and its intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs.

Tariq 'Aziz added that Iraq was forced to wage the battle against Iran in order to protect its sovereignty and to ward off danger from its territories after the Iranian rulers had carried out a direct military attack on Iraqi border towns and after they had turned down peaceful initiatives to solve existing differences between the two countries.

On the possibility of achieving peace and ending fighting between Iraq and Iran, Tariq 'Aziz said that this depends on both sides' readiness. This cannot be attained by the approval of one side. He pointed out that Iraq has told all the international peace committees that it is prepared to cooperate to end the differences with Iran. All its wishes, however, have always met with the Tehran rulers' rejection and intransigence and a lack of desire on their part to establish peace in the area. He asserted that the Iraqi forces could not be withdrawn before an agreement is reached on the basis of restoring Iraq's legitimate rights.

On the situation in Arabistan, Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq had declared its official and tenacious position toward the people of Arabistan, stressing that the future of these people depends on what they determine for themselves. He explained that Iraq does not call for the partition of Iran, adding that Iraq is only supporting the legitimate rights of the oppressed Iranian peoples.

Tariq 'Aziz asserted that the duration of the war, be it long or short, will not discourage the fighters because they are the ones in the right and are defending the historical rights of Iraq and the Arab nation. He added that the future is adequate to make the enemies kneel and that the Tehran rulers will in the future recognize reality and will return the rights, which they had usurped by force, to their legitimate owners.

SAUDI PAPER INTERVIEWS DEPUTY PREMIER ON GULF WAR

LD121141 Jidda AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 10 Mar 81 p 7

[Sa'ud al-Harbi interview with Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the Iraqi People's Army Taha Yasin Ramadan during his recent visit to Jidda--exact date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What exactly is the purpose of your unexpected visit, especially as it takes place the day after the announcement of the proposals of the good offices committee? Is the visit to explain a new Iraqi stance in the light of these proposals and why did you come to Saudi Arabia in particular?

Answer: First of all the visit falls within the context of the fraternal consultations between Iraq and the kingdom and of the development of the relations between the two countries, which are now good. The visit is also to deliberate on the latest developments of the situation in the eastern part of the Arab nation--developments that relate to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. Basically, this is the purpose of the visit. I discussed these matters with His Highness Crown Prince Fahd.

As for the good offices committee, the Iraqi stance is well known. We support every good effort and mediation by any organization or state seeking to do good and to uphold what is right. Iraq lends assistance to facilitate the task of any party proceeding in this direction, including the good offices committee set up by the third Islamic Conference summit, held in holy Mecca recently.

This Iraqi stance falls in its entirety within the framework of the basic principles announced by Iraq. This stance will not change, for it relates to inalienable and clear rights which have been repeatedly proclaimed by President Saddam Husayn and were repeated at the Islamic summit in holy Mecca.

Question: What is Iraq's present stance in the wake of the statement issued by the Iranian Defense Council rejecting the proposals of the good offices committee?

Answer: We are not saying what the stance is but we do say that Iraq favors a cease-fire and negotiations on the basis of full recognition of Iraq's legitimate national and pan-Arab rights and the principle of noninterference and observance of this principle. After that the Iraqi Army will withdraw from those territories which are proved to be Iranian territories. However, until that takes place--that is, until Iran recognizes Iraq's rights fully--not one soldier will be withdrawn as much as one inch from the territories in which the Iraqi Army is now present. This is Iraq's stance. Any proposal outside this framework will neither be accepted nor discussed at all.

Question: But, Your Excellency, we know that Khomeyni has set two basic conditions: The aggressor--that is, the side which initiated the war--must be determined, and he must be punished. Khomeyni says that the fulfillment of these two conditions will ensure the establishment of peace in the area. What is your opinion?

Answer: What Khomeyni says is what the majority of Iranian offficials say. It is very obvious that the victim of an aggression is the one whose land has been usurped. Iraq often asked through diplomatic channels and notes for the restoration of its land and waters. We would have waited and been more patient, but the Iranian provocations and aggressions on our borders continued, including attacks on civilian planes from 4 to 22 September, the latter being the day on which the war was declared.

I believe that the seizure of others' land and waters constitutes aggression. A responsible reaction to aggression and retaliation against the usurping aggressor is, in the eyes of the Iranians, an act of aggression itself. If this is indeed an aggression, as the Iranians claim, then we are all for it.

We will not evaluate or analyze Khomeyni's statements. We say that we uphold legitimate rights and noninterference in the internal affairs of either country.

Question: The Iranians are saying that they will implement the proposals of the good offices committee only after the Iraqi forces withdraw and cease fire. What is your view on this?

Answer: We too say that we will not withdraw unless Iran first officially and clearly recognizes our rights. We will not cease fire but will continue to fight until Iran submits, even if the war continues for 20 years.

Question: But you previously signed the 1975 agreement in Algiers.

Answer: This agreement has been abrogated by both countries and we will not go back on it.

Question: So there should be a new agreement on the demarcation of borders?

Answer: Of course. But this does not mean we cannot consider making the previous agreement the framework for a new agreement--a new agreement whereby each side will obtain its legitimate rights. Our rights to our land and waters are historical and clear and are recognized by everyone and by history as well.

Question: On what basis can the new agreement be established? On the basis of the 1913 Ottoman protocols, for example?

Answer: It is quite possible for the Ottoman protocols to be the basis of the new agreement.

Question: Mr First Deputy Prime Minister, let us now move on to a different question, though within the same area: How do you see the Iraqi military situation at the front at present. For example, the Iraqi Army so far has not entered Abadan. Will it enter Abadan if the Iranians insist on rejecting a cease-fire?

Answer: This is likely to happen. If the Iraqi Army sees that entering Abadan will be in the interests of the military and defense situation, then it will enter it. It will also enter any other city.

Question: What about the military losses the Iranian side announces in its military communiques? Are they accurate?

Answer: We ourselves give the losses of the Iranian side, though the figures we give are less than the actual losses. We mention losses seen by our soldiers, which are not all the losses. If we total up the losses announced by the Iranian side we find that they are less than 20,000 Iranian soldiers. But, according to what Khomeyni said a few days ago, there are 60,000 Iranian dead. Khomeyni also announced that there are 100,000 wounded. We say that the figure of 60,000 Iranian dead announced by Khomeyni is smaller than the actual losses. The losses announced by Khomeyni are the official losses of the Iranian Army and do not include other categories.

Question: What then is the current Iraqi situation as a whole?

Answer: Our firm stand for a peaceful solution is that a cease-fire must be established with the approval of both sides, to be followed by direct or indirect negotiations to reach agreement on the legitimate rights of both sides and on noninterference in each other's internal affairs. After agreement is reached on these matters, a withdrawal will begin on the basis of that agreement.

Question: In your capacity as commander of the People's Army, what is the role of this army in the Iraq-Iran war?

Answer: The People's Army is part of the armed forces formations fighting at the front. It also protects the internal front.

Question: Let us move on to another question which is not out of context with regard to the interview so far: What was the outcome of your recent talks with His Royal Highness Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and what was achieved in these talks?

Answer: As is known, coordination between the two countries is continuing in all matters and, of course, particularly the question of the war with Iran, which we believe does not concern Iraq alone but all the Arabs in general and the Gulf countries in particular. His highness has shown clear understanding of the Iraqi stand and supported the basic principles which the Iraqi side proposed regarding the settlement of the conflict, which are consonant with the basic principles approved following the recent Islamic summit in Mecca.

Question: Let us go back once again to the war and the Iranian situation. Khomeyni, for example, calls for President Saddam Husayn to be put on trial. What is your opinion of this demand?

Answer: We make no answer to this demand because it is meaningless. For example, Khomeyni said that the Iranian Army will occupy Baghdad. This too is meaningless, for the simple reason that the Iraqi Army is now on the approaches to Abadan, Dezful and Ahvaz and is occupying Iranian territories twice the area of Lebanon. These are facts, unlike Khomeyni's talk.

Question: Why do you say in Iraq that Arabistan is an Arab region and that Iraq wants it?

Answer: Arabistan is Arab and the last Arab emirate there was in 1923, not long ago. Also the three Gulf islands are Arab, and remained so until 1971. They must return to Arab hands.

Question: So Iraq is frankly demanding the return of the three Arab islands and the annexation of Arabistan?

Answer: We do not advocate the annexation of Arabistan but Arabistan is Arab and its people are Arab. We believe that if Iran wants to remain united with its nationalities, it must give the people of Arabistan their rights so that the various communities in Iran can live in fraternity. Otherwise, if Iran continues to think that the Persian nationality should dominate the other nationalities, we do not think that there will be stability in Iran in the future.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 273

JN121704 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1622 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Mar (INA)--The Iraqi Armed Forces killed 197 Iranians yesterday evening and this morning. Our armed forces also destroyed four infantry positions, one tank, nine vehicles, eight guns of various calibers, one rocket launcher, two observation posts, two armored cars and one steamboat. This was contained in Communique No 273 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces continued to deal severe blows to the racist Persian ignorant regime, inflicting further losses in life and equipment on it. The following are the results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today:

Known enemy losses:

A. Ten were killed in the Iranian region opposite Panjwin.
B. An enemy concentration was sighted in the Sar-e Pole-e Zahab area. Our units attacked it killing 17 Persians and destroying 1 infantry position, 4 vehicles, 1 gun and 1 observation post.
C. Three were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
D. Nine were killed opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
E. One observation post was destroyed in the Mehran area.
F. Eight were killed and one tank, one gun and one excavator were destroyed in the Dezful area.

G. One excavator was destroyed in the Shush area.
H. Our units clashed with groups of enemy personnel in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area, forcing them to retreat after sustaining 63 dead. Using various weapons, our units attacked enemy concentrations in the same area, killing 53 and destroying 1 armored personnel carrier, 1 vehicle carrying soldiers, 1 gun and 1 rocket launcher.
I. One vehicle carrying personnel, one gun and two armored cars were destroyed in the Ahvaz area.
J. Using various weapons, our units attacked enemy concentrations and positions in the Abadan area, inflicting the following losses on them: 34 dead and 3 infantry positions; 3 vehicles, one carrying personnel; 4 guns; and 1 excavator destroyed. One steamboat loaded with oil was burned and sunk in the Shatt al-'Arab opposite the Az-Ziyadiyah outpost.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 197 dead and 4 infantry positions, 1 tank, 1 armored personnel carrier, 9 vehicles, 8 guns of various calibers, 1 rocket launcher, 3 excavators, 2 observation posts, 2 armored cars and 1 steamboat destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Four martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two vehicles and one gun were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 March 1981

BRIEFS

URUGUAYAN POLITICAL DELEGATION--Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA)--'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and assistant official in charge of foreign relations in the party's National Command met here today with a delegation of the democratic grouping [as received] in Uruguay which includes (Dibgo Agard) and (Jorenimo Gardozo). Amin reviewed the dimensions of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and Iraq's stand on the international efforts to solve this conflict. The delegation valued Iraq's stand on the conflict and President Saddam Husayn's positive role in solving it by peaceful means and in calling for recognition of Iraq's national and pan-Arab rights and its full sovereignty over its land and waters. It was agreed to promote relations between the Ba'th Party and the democratic grouping in Uruguay. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 11 Mar 81 JN]

AR-RUTBAH HIGHWAY CONTRACT--Baghdad, 12 Mar (INA)--A contract worth 106 million dinars (about 150 million dollars) [as received] to build part of a highway, linking Baghdad with the Iraqi-Jordanian border town of Ar-Rutbah, was signed here Thursday. The contract was concluded between the Iraqi Ministry of Housing and Construction and two foreign companies. The 137-kilometer-long part of the highway is expected to be completed within 36 months. [Text] [Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 12 Mar 81 JN]

MINISTER RESPONDS TO SPEECH BY PLO'S KHALAF

NC202116 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Mar 81

[Text] Minister of Information Michel Iddih this evening answered the speech which Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] made on the death anniversary of the late [Sidon deputy] Ma'ruf Sa'd. In his speech, Abu Iyad spoke of the regime in Lebanon. Minister Iddih called on the Palestinian officials to avoid taking any stance or making any statement which would tend to serve the common enemy.

In his statement Minister Iddih said: Upon my return from abroad, I read Abu Iyad's speech in the press last Saturday. I could only express regret and surprise. I first say regret because some of the utterances and statements of the Palestinian leaders bear a negative impact on their cause in such a way that these utterances and statements provide those with misgivings with excuses to engage in a number of practices and excesses, which no one of the Palestinian leaders denies, including Abu Iyad himself. Those responsible for the Palestinian cause should supposedly be constantly alert to the stances they take and the statements they make in view of the fact that the Palestinian cause has been subjected and is still being subjected to various kinds of conspiracies.

He added: My surprise is caused by the fact that in an enthusiastic oratory atmosphere, Abu Iyad allowed himself to mention the regime in Lebanon in general; to cast doubt on this regime's patriotism; to demand a patriotic regime, as he put it; and to mention a minister in particular. By so doing, Abu Iyad was carried away by past and recurring mistakes which have prevented the creation of an atmosphere of confidence and positivism with the Palestinian officials. It is impossible to create such an atmosphere as long as some of these officials involve themselves in domestic Lebanese affairs.

At this very time, we are in dire need of preserving Lebanon and sparing it ordeals and plots. Furthermore, we should refrain from giving excuses to Israel, which is lying in wait for us and for the Palestinian people. Therefore, we urge the Palestinian officials to avert taking such stances and making such statements, which tend to serve the common enemy while he is engaging in his continuing practices against Lebanon and against the Palestinian cause.

The minister of information said; It is well known that there are contradictions, disputes and divergent viewpoints on the organization of the Palestinian temporary presence in Lebanon. At this very critical juncture the interests of Lebanon and of Palestine dictate that these contradictions should not be reinforced with statements or stances tending to contribute to the aggravation and inflammation of these contradictions. Such a state of affairs would serve no one other than Israel.

In conclusion the information minister expressed the desire that, from now on, the leaders of the Palestinian resistance avert the pitfall in which some liberation movements of the world had fallen; that is, slipping into extremist oral outbiddings. Lenin had cautioned against such outbiddings. He always reiterated the statement: It is imperative for us to declare war on revolutionary words. This is our duty. It is also an absolute need which we must meet so none would ever say the following bitter truth about us: Revolutionary words about revolutionary war have aborted the revolution.

SIZE OF PROJECTED U.S. AID TO LEBANON CRITICIZED

LD121107 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 6 Mar 81 p 51

['Adnan Karimah article: "Reject the American Aid, for God's Sake"]

[Text] Thanks to the U.S. State Department, at a time when the American economic crisis has worsened, unemployment and inflation have increased, interest rates have risen, the number of unemployed has reached one-tenth of the American work force and Reagan's administration has reduced the federal budget by over $57 billion, the U.S. State Department has asked the Congress to allocate $15 million of the American general budget in long-term loans at preferential interest rates to Lebanon in order to buy military equipment. The budget also included a request for the allocation of $5 million in economic aid.

We did not believe the figures when they were carried by the news agencies. We thought that a typographical error or some kind of confusion must have occurred. The figures could not possibly be 15 million and 5 million. A number of zeros had maybe been dropped or the word "billion" replaced by the word "million" by a Jew at the federal printing office in Washington.

We asked the American Embassy for the text of the federal budget. We studied the foreign aid list and discovered that the figures were sound. The two figures were correct, by God! Despite the fact that its budget is bankrupt, Lebanon, we believe, is not in need of this charity because any affluent Lebanese could "help" his country with much more than this amount, which usually has political strings attached to it.

Some time in the past the United States gave Lebanon five 155-mm guns as a gift. When the guns arrived in Beirut, the American ambassador celebrated the occasion as usual by inviting guests and officers and then singing the praises of the American guns. When he finished speaking, the Lebanese defense minister approached him whispering: "Thanks for the gift but for your information--and I believe that this is no secret to you--the smallest quarter in Beirut has many more and more powerful guns than these."

It appears that the United States measures its "aid" by the volume of tumult against the United States and its interests in the country to which aid is to be given. Lebanon is a peaceable country and does not agitate against the United States these days.

Proof of the aforementioned theory is that a Latin American republic asked for American aid. The U.S. State Department's reply was that no allocations had been made for that country because it had no communist party and U.S. interests there were secure.

The officials in that small country had a brilliant idea. They formed a communist party--of government employees, of course. These "communists" began demonstrating in the streets. They burned the American flag and an effigy of Uncle Sam. Immediately afterward, the United States decided to help that country with weapons and large economic aid. Now, every year before the American budget is approved these "communists" demonstrate in the streets and burn the flag and the effigy. The aid follows.

There is a communist and many Marxist parties in Lebanon but they do not as yet have the habit of burning the American flag and effigies of Uncle Sam. In a nutshell, agitation against America is required so that it will increase its military and economic aid. A clearer example is Israel which is the biggest agitator and because of this receives 2.5 billion and, of course, a tip on top every year.

HIJACKERS' DEMANDS ACCEPTED; PRESIDENTS CONVERSE

JN121651 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1642 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus, 12 Mar (SANA)--An official source announced here this evening that the Pakistani Government had accepted the demands of the hijackers of the Pakistani airliner at Damascus airport. The source told SANA that the Pakistani Government has agreed to release 55 prisoners. The competent Syrian quarters immediately informed the hijackers of the Pakistani Government's acceptance of their demands.

The Syrian authorities have addressed a message to the hijackers on behalf of President Hafiz al-Asad, appealing to them not to undertake any action against the hostages and the airliner until an agreement is finalized on the implementation procedures.

Meanwhile, President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from the Pakistani president, in which he thanked him for the great efforts exerted by the competent Syrian authorities in dealing with the issue of the hijacked airliner and for the measures adopted to preserve the hostages' lives and security.

In its acceptance of the hijackers' demands, the Pakistani Government said that it is not known whether 6 of the 55 are detained or not. Nevertheless, it committed itself to release them if they are detained.

Meanwhile, the Syrian side will continue its contacts with the Pakistani Government and the hijackers to complete the procedures for the implementation of the agreement.

Ziaul Haq Phones Al-Asad

JN122136 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] At 2215 today Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq phoned President Hafiz al-Asad. He expressed his greetings and thanks to the president for his efforts to solve the issue of the hijacked Pakistani airliner. He also expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Syrian authorities to this end. He urged the president to follow up these efforts to bring about the release of the airliner passengers and crew. The president promised to follow up the endeavors and to exert every possible effort to reach the desired result, preserving innocent lives.

Waldheim Phones Al-Asad

JN121851 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] At 1800 today UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim phoned President Hafiz al-Asad from New York. He expressed his appreciation for the Syrian authorities' efforts to find a peaceful solution for the issue of the hijacked Pakistani airliner. He urged for following up these efforts in order to attain their desired result. President al-Asad asserted to Dr Waldheim that these efforts are continuing for the sake of finding a solution that would preserve innocent lives.

LIBYAN DELEGATION, AT-TURAYKI LEAVE DAMASCUS

JN121902 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus--The Libyan Unity Committee delegation left Damascus at 1400 today. The delegation comprises Lt Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the 1 September Revolution and Brother Jadallah 'Azziz al-Talhi, secretary of the General People's Congress Secretariat.

The delegation was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad and the head and members of the Libyan Foreign Relations Office in Damascus.

In a statement to journalists Dr al-Kasm said: As you know, the Unity Committee between the two fraternal countries Syria and Libya met in Damascus in accordance with what has been approved by the joint revolutionary leadership in the recent Benghazi meeting. The two leaderships agreed to entrust the committee with the task of finding an executive formula for the unified state. Together with our brothers in fraternal Libya, we have managed to make very long strides toward the accomplishment of the task entrusted to us by the two leaderships. Of course, the unity work is a tremendous one and should, therefore, be based on strong bases so as not to give a chance to the enemies of unity to infiltrate it. This is what we are working for together.

In conclusion Dr al-Kasm pointed out that the two fraternal countries would exchange further visits with a view to coordinating the two sides' stands.

Dr Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan secretary of liaison for foreign affairs, also left Damascus this afternoon at the end of a 2-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, and the secretary and members of the Libyan Relations Office in Damascus.

AL-AHMAR VIEWS USSR TIES IN MOSCOW NEWS INTERVIEW

JN130957 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Moscow--Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has affirmed our Syrian people's pride in the Soviet people's friendship, which is based on the common struggle against oppression and injustice and for peace and social progress.

In an interview granted to the editor in chief of MOSCOW NEWS, to be published today, he points out that the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed between Syria and the Soviet Union last year did not just complement the already existing relations of friendship. Rather, it elevated these relations to a new qualitative level.

He adds that Syria and the Soviet Union attach great importance to the treaty, since it helps us entrench and develop the deep-rooted social and economic changes achieved by our people under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its secretary general, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Ahmar stresses that the treaty is not directed against any third party, pointing out that it does not threaten anyone. Rather, he says, this treaty is a stabilizing factor helping to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East as well as international detente.

Al-Ahmar stresses the importance of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's participation in the work of the 26th CPSU Congress.

He points out that the peoples demanding freedom view the Soviet Union as an invulnerable bastion of struggle. He adds that the CPSU Congress discussions reflect the Soviet people's huge potentials and inexhaustible experience.

SHAMIR COMMENTS ON U.S. TRIP, ARMS ISSUE

Knesset Committee Remarks

TA111616 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Report by Knesset correspondent Moshe Hakohen on Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's appearance before the Knesset's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee on 11 March--recorded]

[Excerpt] Minister Shamir discussed his talks in Rome. His Italian counterpart, Emilio Colombo, told him about two talks which Italian representatives had held with PLO head 'Arafat. In the first talk 'Arafat told a parliamentary delegation that if the establishment of a Palestinian state is made contingent upon the PLO's recognition of Israel, it is preferable that a Palestinian state not be established. In a second talk, with an Italian Foreign Ministry official, the PLO head was asked whether a Palestinian state would not serve as a base for aggression against Israel. His reply was that it is a matter of stages. At this stage Israel is strong, so there is no point in our attacking it. Our first target will be Jordan, which in our view is part of the future Palestinian state, he said.

A considerable portion of the report was of course devoted to the foreign minister's Washington talks. Yitzhaq Shamir said that in the talks he had emphasized the United States' moral commitment to Israel more than he had Israel's strategic importance. The attitude toward us as a strategic asset could pass, the foreign minister said, even though today the strategic and moral factors are intertwined. It was the foreign minister's impression that, in contrast to the previous administration, the Reagan administration is speaking in one voice as far as foreign policy is concerned. President Reagan had told the Israeli minister that despite its other preoccupations, the administration would continue its efforts to establish peace in our region, with the next step being the visit by Secretary of State Haig. Haig will seek to clarify the positions of the sides and the differences between them, and only afterward will a decision be taken on whether to appoint a new U.S. ambassador to the autonomy talks.

Minister Shamir vehemently denied having expressed to the U.S. administration agreement on the supply of offensive equipment for the Saudis' F-15 planes and denied that he had requested something in return. It was President Reagan who had proposed compensation, out of understanding for our anxiety, although he had made it clear that the United States was sticking to its decision to supply the equipment to Saudi Arabia.

MA'ARIV Interview

TA131121 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Mar 81 p 22

[Interview of Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in his Knesset office following his return from a U.S. and European tour by Dov Goldstein]

[Excerpt] Question: It would have been reasonable to assume that Israel should have welcomed the new U.S. administration for having pushed the Israeli-Arab conflict back to a lower degree of importance, in view of the fact that the previous administration, in arguing that "the Middle East is a powder keg that should be detonated before the whole world is caught on fire," created an atmosphere of urgency and used this formula to extort from Israel concessions that were to its disadvantage. Would you agree to this evaluation?

Answer: One must distinguish between two things: the first is the excessive significance attributed to the Israeli-Arab conflict as part of the overall conflict in the Middle East. Here, of course, we welcome the view of our conflict as one of the many Middle East conflicts, and not even the most important or pressing of them all.

The second regards the active U.S. participation in the peace progress that began at Camp David and in which the United States played an important role. Israel is interested in a continuation of this participation, because if it does not, a vacuum may be created and that would invite all sorts of evil and negative initiatives that would not contribute to the peace progress and might even cause setbacks in this process.

Question: Did you find sympathy for this argument of yours?

Answer: Yes, I encountered some understanding. However, the truth is that the Reagan administration is still new. It was in its first month in office when I visited there. It was immediately faced with pressing international problems and it would have been difficult to demand of it immediate action in our region, as such action requires a consolidated policy. The Americans explained to me that there are many other things on their list of priorities, particularly the President's new economic policy. They told me that without substantial economic gains there will be no foreign policy successes either.

Question: Is it true that the decision on Mr Haig's visit came as a result of U.S. compliance with your suggestions?

Answer: It came in the course of my visit. It may well have been that my arguments had some impact because there was no mention of such a visit before that. One other thing must be understood, though, and it is important in comprehending the new administration: This administration is wary of following exactly in the footsteps of the former administration. Even when there is agreement in principle with the moves made by the previous administration, one can discern an effort to find other ways and different measures to implement the U.S. policy. Both the President and the secretary of state told me clearly that they recognize the U.S. commitment to pursue the Camp David process but added that they must still decide on the ways to implement it.

Question: In other words, the commitment to the Camp David process may have other, new expressions?

Answer: Yes, this was understood from what was said.

Question: Is it now clear beyond any doubt that the autonomy negotiations will only resume after the Israeli elections?

Answer: There is no connection between these negotiations and the elections in Israel. We have no way of forcing any partner to the negotiations to continue them. Egypt had suspended the talks because it decided to wait for the results of the U.S. election. It may not come as a surprise that now they are waiting for the results of the Israeli election. Perhaps after the election they might find another reason [to postpone the talks]. We object to any delays. The negotiations should continue uninterrupted, regardless of the elections in Israel.

Question: When the United States repeatedly emphasized its moral commitment to Israel, we wanted to hear that it also has a strategic interest in us. Now that the administration also regards us as a strategic asset, is there no danger that its moral commitment might decrease? Strategic interests by nature change, whereas a moral commitment has a dimension of stability?

Answer: There is no conflict. The U.S. President and the officials of his administration emphasized that the friendship between the United States and Israel is founded on the two alike: the moral commitment to Israel's existence and its democratic strength together with an identity of strategic interests the two countries share. The statements were made in the most explicit manner and were repeated more than once. The moral commitment and the identical strategic interests complement each other.

Question: And President Reagan told you all these good things during your meeting?

Answer: Yes, it was a very warm and hearty conversation. The President confirmed in principle everything that had previously been agreed upon with Secretary of State Haig and with Secretary of Defense Weinberger. What the President said in our conversation was really heart-warming....

Question: What did the President say?

Answer: He said that we are an inseparable part of the free world. He said: "As such, we will continue to strengthen you. You can rest assured that your qualitative superiority will be maintained. We will help you export arms. We will secure easy terms for your arms procurement." The Reagan administration believes that peace in the world can only be secured with a strong United States. I told the President that only a strong Israel could attain peace and that only if it is strong will its neighbors observe it. The President said: "This is precisely our approach!"

Question: Were ways paved for the establishment of the multinational force to supervise the peace and security arrangements in the Sinai after Israel pulls back from it in April 1982?

Answer: Preliminary deliberations took place and certain things were seen in the offing but one cannot talk about conclusions.

Question: Do you attribute to the establishment of the multinational force the same importance that Moshe Dayan does?

Answer: There is first-rate importance to the situation in the Sinai after the Israeli withdrawal.

Question: Is the establishment of that force a precondition for Israeli withdrawal?

Answer: That is clear. Israel has announced that if this article of the peace treaty is not fulfilled, it will not withdraw from that part of the Sinai which we still hold.

Question: Did you say this just now to the heads of the administration?

Answer: Certainly, it is clear to them beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Question: Did you raise before your American interlocutors the Israeli arguments against the slow pace of normalization and the obstacles piled in its way by Egypt?

Answer: I did not go into detail. I said that normalization was proceeding despite the numerous difficulties. I noted that there are obstacles but I did not complain about the slowness of the process.

Television Interview

TA112056 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Interview of Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Eli Nisan, Moshe Shilonsky and Nisim Mish'al--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Let us, perhaps, begin with a question that has been occupying us over the last few days, the question of the supply of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia.

I understand that this week the Cabinet decided to express opposition to the supply of that equipment to Saudi Arabia. What will the significance of that opposition be when the Government of Israel stands, after the United States has decided to supply this equipment, and says: We oppose it?

[Answer] The Government of Israel has always opposed that deal and that position was known by the U.S. Government. While I was visiting Washington I expressed that opposition with complete clarity and extreme vigor.

[Question] So why did the Cabinet feel it was necessary this week to repeat its decision that it is opposed to the supply of that equipment?

[Answer] There was no official government decision. It was a decision made by a Cabinet session.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, have you not, in fact, considered another possibility: that the United States requires, and needs, for its own reasons, today, to come closer to Saudi Arabia, to please Saudi Arabia and so it needs the deal?

[Answer] The United States knows its own business. We have to look after our own affairs.

[Question] But, in fact, you are merely registering our opposition. (?In quality), the opposition is not effective.

[Answer] I do not know what other sort of opposition there could be. We have expressed our opposition. When I was in Washington I explained all our reasoning and we have very weighty reasoning; and not only from our viewpoint, from the broader viewpoint, too, of U.S. interests. We explained over and over again that, in our opinion, that supply is superfluous, dangerous to peace in the area, dangerous to Israel's security. The U.S. Government apparently did not accept our opinion.

[Question] Mr Shamir, if we can return to the Cabinet decision, what it means is that Israel will not start a political offensive on the matter of the arms supplies and the question is: What would you advise Israel's friends in the United States to do on this matter?

[Answer] Nothing was said in that decision about going or not going to war. The Cabinet does not decide about this. The Cabinet expresses its opinions and passes its opinion onto the U.S. government. We do not interfere in the internal wars within the United States. We have also explained our position to our friends, our friends in the Senate, to our friends in the Congress.

[Question] Would you advise those friends to sit and not react on the matter of the arms deal?

[Answer] I will not give the friends any advice. They know what to do. It is not our job to interfere in the internal policy of the United States. We have explained our position to our friends and it is their duty to do what their conscience tells them to do.

[Question] Mr Shamir, if I may recall this, in 1978, when the tripartite plane deal was in the offing, the Government of Israel then exhibited vigorous activity on that matter and used what is called the Jewish lobby, the Jewish influential establishment in the United States, and then there was a confrontation with the administration. Today, now, in this situation, the Government of Israel has not chosen that way. However, there are several possibilities.

[Answer] To tell you the truth, I do not remember exactly what was done then, but it is clear that there is no need for a precise repetition of every campaign. We saw fit this time to express our opposition and to express our opposition to the administration, the Congress, the communications media, to all our friends in the United States.

[Question] Has Israel also demanded concessions, a political recompense in return for the U.S.-Saudi deal, in addition to the military compensation?

[Answer] We are not talking about recompense or about compensation. We are opposed to the supply of weapons and we claim and say that if it really is implemented, then the danger to our security will be increased and then we will be entitled to go to the United States and make additional demands there in order to reinforce our security.

[Question] During your talks in Washington, did you not submit any demands for compensation, military or political?

[Answer] I did not enter into any such discussions at all because I insisted that this deal, these supplies are harmful and detrimental.

[Question] TIME magazine quotes you as having said that if the deal is really approved, Israel will ask for military compensation in order not to lag behind Arab countries.

[Answer] I did not say that to the government; I did say it to you a few minutes ago.

[Question] In this situation today, what is likely to be appropriate compensation?

[Answer] Again, I repeat: There can be no talk of compensation. We must see what Saudi Arabia actually gets. Then, our defense establishment--the Defense Ministry, the general staff--will determine the extent of the damage caused to Israeli security and what the United States can do in order to reduce this damage.

[Question] Mr Shamir, perhaps you could tell us, then, what you achieved in your recent U.S. visit?

[Answer] You don't have to achieve something on every visit.

[Question] Golda Me'ir used to take a shopping basket to the United States.

[Answer] No, I did not go with a shopping basket. You know, at the present time personal meetings between foreign ministers is a daily occurrence. Today, diplomatic activity is conducted through personal contacts and personal meetings. This was the first meeting at a governmental level with the new U.S. administration. We had to present our stands, to put forward our requests, we had to hear their views, to enter into a dialogue on matters of common interest ot us and to them--and we have many such matters--and I think that these goals were largely achieved.

[Question] Mr Shamir, since your return from the United States you have repeated that Israel constitutes a strategic asset for the United States. Perhaps you are ready to explain what the significance of this is for Israel.

[Answer] To be precise, I did not use the term strategic asset. I said that the United States regards Israel as a very important factor in the arena and from the aspect of the West's strategic interests.

[Question] What is the significance of this?

[Answer] Well, everyone understands. In the global confrontation between the Soviet bloc and the Western bloc, there are forces and elements which help one or other of the blocs. The United States regards the state of Israel--its military strength, its technological strength--as an important factor which poses an obstacle to Soviet expansionism in this region.

[Question] What does Israel get out of being a strategic asset of the United States?

[Answer] It is not a matter of a strategic asset of the United States; it is an identity of interests between our interest--our national interest--and the West's interest. This obligates the West--the United States--to assist us.

[Question] Mr Shamir, are you not apprehensive that it is Israel which is paying the heaviest price for the new U.S. Government's strategy? We acquiesce in the supply of arms to Saudi Arabia and we explain this as being important to the new strategy. Perhaps Israel comes out losing.

[Answer] Israel does not pay a thing, because the decision to supply arms to Saudi Arabia is a U.S. and not an Israeli decision, and the Israeli Government is not yet running U.S. policy. The Government of Israel--or, to put it in a broader context--the State of Israel is today considered an ally of the United States.

[Question] Taiwan was also considered a strategic asset for the United States--until after the Sino-American rapprochement and then we saw what happened.

[Answer] What happened? I do not want to answer with a question but obviously we should not rely only on this. First of all, we must rely on ourselves and in all our talks and explanations in the United States we see that in the first place Israel must be strong, it must rely on its own army, its own strength, its economic strength, and not on the help of the United States. The United States should help Israel stand on its own feet--and the present U.S. administration understands this well.

[Question] Mr Minister, almost on the same subject: What about the creation of the multinational force in Sinai? Does Israel not view the formation of this force, with the participation of U.S. troops, as the beginning of an American presence in the Middle East?

[Answer] Israel does not, of course, oppose a U.S. military presence in the Middle East in view of the existing conditions, in view of the threats, in view of the various dangers from every direction. As for the Sinai, from our point of view, since Israel will withdraw from Sinai, it is important that there be a serious, friendly military force there, which we will be able to rely on to do its job so that the Sinai will not ever again be a base for an attack on Israel.

[Question] Have we asked the Americans to intercede with the Egyptians, so the Americans can use the air bases we are evacuating in the Sinai and Sharm ash-Shaykh?

[Answer] We have not yet gone into the details. We spoke about principles and, from the aspect of the principles, it seems to me that there are no differences of opinion between us and the United States. Today negotiations began, as is known. [sentence as heard] They will continue and we must simply insist on our interests.

[Question] In view of the difficulties in the negotiations between Egypt and the United States on the issue of the establishment of a military base in Egypt, will Israel appeal officially to the United States and offer it a U.S. military base to be established inside Israel?

[Answer] No. Israel is not interested and will not appeal to the United States with such suggestions for establishing bases on its territory. If the United States appeals to us, we will discuss the matter.

[Question] Sir, today in the Knesset the question of sovereignty over the Golan Heights was raised again. If you had participated in the voting, how would you have voted?

[Answer] I would have voted for having it struck off the agenda.

[Question] Why?

[Answer] I do not think that it was good or advisable to bring that draft bill to the Knesset today because there is broad national agreement in Israel in favor of Israel holding on to and settling the Golan Heights and such a draft bill, at present, is aimed at undermining this national agreement. It is aimed at demonstrating to the world that there are some differences of opinion here, that there is no unified position in Israel, here, and this contradicts reality.

[Question] Did those same considerations--the ones you have just mentioned--not apply on the matter of the Jerusalem law, in fact?

[Answer] Jerusalem is another issue. It is a fact that the draft bill on the issue of Jerusalem was approved by the Knesset and it demonstrated the national unity on the matter of Jerusalem, while, on the matter of the Golan Heights, it was not approved and so the opposite was demonstrated.

[Question] On the issue of the transfer of the prime minister's office to east Jerusalem it is said that you were not enthusiastic about the decision to transfer the office, or that you actually worked against the transfer of the office to east Jerusalem.

[Answer] To tell the truth, I did not regard this as something important, because, as far as I am concerned, there is one Jerusalem and it is not at all important whether the prime minister's office is on one street in Jerusalem or another. Therefore, that issue is not worthy of such a vigorous debate.

[Question] Would you prefer that the current situation remain as it is?

[Answer] It makes no difference as far as I am concerned.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, ever since you were appointed to your post, you have often said that Europe has been neglected in Israeli foreign policy and you have made many trips to Europe. Do you feel that in the wake of these visits and meetings there is more understanding in Europe for Israel's positions?

[Answer] I did not say that Europe had been neglected. I said that Europe must not be neglected. Europe is an important continent, an important factor in the world and for us. We must foster our relations with it, to talk, to debate, to discuss--and we are doing this, and I am doing it. Unfortunately, I cannot say that of late there has been any improvement in our relations with Europe. However, this obligates us even more to deal with Europe.

[Question] Even the friendly countries in Europe--Holland, Denmark, West Germany--are also evincing nonunderstanding for Israel's stands.

[Answer] We must take into account that they are functioning within the framework of the European Community and within that framework there are compromises between the various positions of the different countries. Everyone forgoes something. However, I would not say that the countries you have mentioned have ceased being our friends.

[Question] It is often said that Western European countries are saying that they are waiting until after the Israeli elections and then they will have an easier time in dealing with Israel.

[Answer] I hope they will not have an easier time.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, I would like to get back to the autonomy talks--a subject which, I assume, came up in your talks in Washington. For the United States, this issue is not currently on the agenda, and the question is: Why, given the relations that exist today between Israel and Egypt, is there no possibility of beginning to instill a momentum to the negotiations without waiting for an American initiative?

[Answer] The situation that has been created since the Camp David agreement necessitates the ongoing existence of the Israel-Egypt-United States triangle. The United States must be a partner, must be involved in the entire process, for various reasons, and therefore we think there is no serious possibility of advancing the peace progress without the United States' participation. I know that this is also Egypt's view.

[Question] But is the United States' lukewarm approach--which is not pushing the matter at this time--not influenced by the fact that in Israel the government is going to be replaced, that elections will soon be held?

[Answer] When I was there this time, I raised the issue and I explained that we were interested in the resumption of U.S. activity because its nonresumption creates a kind of vacuum, and that vacuum invites all manner of initiatives and activities that are harmful to the peace process. Their reply was that they do understand this. But all told, when I was there that administration was just 1 month old and was loaded down with problems, some of them very acute, which perhaps have a higher level of priority. They explained to me that there is the matter of Reagan's new economic policy; this is the cardinal issue for them. They said that if they do not succeed with the economic policy, they certainly will not succeed in foreign policy. There is the problem of relations with the Soviet Union, Latin America. At the same time, they are now studying the problems of the Middle East and they do not want to take any action before they have decided how to act, in what manner. True, they have a general commitment to continue with the Camp David process--but they have to decide in what form, with what method. They are not ready to continue on the precise path of the previous administration. They flinch from that idea. Therefore, they must decide, and it's in the light of this that they also decided on the visit by the secretary of state, which will be a step in the direction of expediting the decision on the manner in which they will continue their activity regarding the peace process.

[Question] Mr Shamir, how did we get into a situation in which we are incapable of maintaining contacts with a country with which are at peace--with Egypt--a situation in which we need the constant mediation of the United States? On a matter such as autonomy, why can we not go about it directly?

[Answer] I would not say that we do not have any contacts; we have daily contacts on many subjects, such as the normalization issue. There are constant contacts, and problems are constantly overcome; there is progress. For example, in another few days a commercial fair will open [in Egypt] with Israeli participation. And there are other such subjects. On the autonomy issue, we believe, and so does Egypt, that here the United States should take part. It is not a matter of mediation. How did As-Sadat put it once? The United States is a full partner. He wants this and we believe that this partnership is beneficial. So I think that the process should go on with this triangle.

CONCERN OVER U.S. SALE OF AWACS REPORTED

TA130936 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Mar 81 p 1

[By Arye Tzimuqi]

[Text] The United States is now making efforts to reassure Israel regarding the anticipated sale of sophisticated AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia. U.S. administration officials have been explaining to their Israeli colleagues that even if a final decision should be reached on selling such planes to Saudi Arabia they would in any event be flown and operated by U.S. crews and Israel therefore has no reason for concern that these planes could be used against it.

At the same time the United States admits that after a certain training period these planes will be getting Saudi pilots and crews to operate the advanced equipment installed in them.

There is great concern in Jerusalem regarding the speed with which reports keep coming in from Washington on sales of arms and advanced military equipment in especially large quantities. It is recalled in this connection that the sales to Saudi Arabia are only a part of this arms flow and that Egypt is receiving and will continue to receive sizeable quantities of armaments, while Jordan will receive, inter alia, "Cobra" helicopter gunships.

It is noted in Jerusalem that while there was an inclination in Jerusalem not to enter into a confrontation with the Reagan administration over the earlier sale of additional accessories for the F-15's, and contenting ourselves with suitable compensation where Israel's security is concerned, the inclination regarding this new affair of the AWACS planes, which are the most advanced in the world, is to challenge the deal.

An Israeli Air Force officer told an Israeli journalist yesterday that if Saudi Arabia has AWACS planes--whether there is a war on or whether things are quiet--this will have serious implications for the Israeli Air Force. Together with the F-15's, with the additional accessories for expanding their range and offensive capacity where land-based objectives are concerned, Saudi Arabia will have a highly perfected air system.

In this context it is noted that the AWACS plane, apart from being used for intelligence purposes and for "reading" the enemy's deployment, is also a command plane controlling other aircraft and directing them to their targets in accordance with the data its facilities have been able to gather. [paragraph continues]

To this add the F-15's fitted with highly accurate offensive accessories aimed at land-based targets from a great distance--capable of flying enormous distances and it is obvious that the Arabs possess a system highly dangerous to Israel.

Every plane taking off or landing on an Israeli runway anywhere in this country will be exposed to Saudi surveillance. In a talk with a HA'ARETZ correspondent the air force officer said that "this will amount to a complete striptease, tantamount to having someone peeping into your bedroom 24 hours a day on a closed-circuit television."

Efforts are now being made, in contacts with the United States, to make it clear that the Saudis are not just buying these AWACS planes "to prevent a Soviet invasion" but that they seriously intend to use their weapons against Israel. It should be noted in this respect that two Saudi newspapers and one Kuwaiti paper wrote yesterday that the additional accessories for the F-15's of the Saudi air force are intended for "liberating the occupied Arab territories" held by Israel.

ISRAEL-EGYPT MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETING CANCELED

TA111542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] A meeting of the joint Israel-Egypt Military Committee, which had been scheduled for next week to discuss the U.S. proposals for the expected establishment of the multinational force in Sinai, was canceled today because of the reshuffle of Egyptian senior military echelons after the helicopter crash in which the defense minister and senior officers were killed. The Egyptians have said they will need more time to get ready for discussions.

Our correspondent has also learned that the general staff headquarters in Cairo has ordered a restriction on the entry of armored and other vehicles into the zones evacuated by the IDF and the Egyptians are now working at fortifying these zones. It appears that this is an attempt by Egypt to stop Israel from having an excuse to complain about a breach of the agreement. Our correspondent points out that the order was given after movements of an Egyptian artillery force in Zone A without coordination with the Egyptian general staff headquarters.

U.S. TECHNOLOGY TO BE REQUESTED FOR LAVI PLANE

TA120955 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Mar 81 p 2

[By Arye Egozi]

[Text] As a part of the compensation for the arms deal with Saudi Arabia, Israel will soon ask the U.S. administration to approve the transfer of technology from U.S. aircraft factories to the Israel Aircraft Industries to help in making progress in the Lavi plane project.

In the meantime the Lavi project is continuing in accordance with the plans previously decided upon.

At the moment negotiations are being conducted with several U.S. and European aircraft companies about their incorporation into the project and it appears that a decision about this will be made within a few months.

LIBYA

PAPER SAYS U.S. HINDERING LAW OF SEA AGREEMENT

LD121359 Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 5 Mar 81 p 1

[Unattributed report: "America Seeking To Hinder Law of Sea Agreement"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department announced the day before yesterday that it will oppose the conclusion of an agreement on the law of the sea during the coming session of the UN conference. The U.S. State Department said that the U.S. delegation has been given instructions to seek to prevent the success of the negotiations during the coming conference session.

It is worth noting that the Law of the Sea Conference has been holding discussions for 7 years. Next week the conference will hold a session that will last 6 weeks which many observers hope will be the last before an international agreement is concluded.

The U.S. administration's aim behind hindering this conference is to maintain its control and exploitation of the sea's wealth.

IRAQI PURGES, ARREST OF AHMAD AL-BAKR REPORTED

LD121920 Tripoli JANA in English 1814 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus, 12 Mar (JANA)--The Syrian newspaper AL-BA'TH today wrote that the Iraqi authorities had put the former President Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr under house arrest. The newspaper added that informed circles indicated that Saddam Husayn was worried about Al-Bakr's links with Iraqi high ranking officers. The newspaper also writes that observers did not rule out the possibility that Al-Bakr had his own opinion on the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Meanwhile, the newspaper quoted news from Iraq as saying that Saddam Husayn began doubting everybody around him and that Iraqi security officers were attending the meetings of the Revolutionary Command Council fully armed for fear of any assassination attempt.

The newspaper indicated that the regime was carrying out daily purges against anyone suspected of having a different or opposing opinion to that of Saddam. It also said that Barazan at-Tikriti, Saddam's brother, recently killed a high ranking army officer--a relative of the Iraqi ambassador in Paris, who was subsequently recalled.

IRANIAN STATEMENT SAID TO WARN OF INTERNAL CHAOS

LD131136 Tripoli JANA in English 0805 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Tehran, 13 Mar (JANA)--The Iranian prime minister's office yesterday issued a statement warning of increasing internal chaos and tension. It said that current conditions were similar to those in Iran on the eve of the 1953 coup d'etat. It stressed that the government was determined to foil, at any cost, the conspiracy of the revolution's enemies and that it would practice its revolutionary responsibility, for the enemies were preparing for a new round for which a date had already been set.

NICARAGUAN MINISTERS DEPART, STATEMENT ISSUED

12 Mar Departure

LD121442 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] The Nicaraguan ministers of foreign affairs and reconstruction left Tripoli this morning at the end of a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, during which they conducted talks on the strengthening of bilateral relations.

Joint Statement

LD121508 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Libyan-Nicaraguan "joint statement" on the visit to Libya by Nicaraguan Foreign Affairs Minister Miguel D'Escoto]

[Text] At the invitation of the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison, Nicaraguan Minister of Foreign Affairs Miguel d'Escoto paid a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ] from 8 through 11 March 1981. The guest delegation was received by our brother, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, and conveyed to him the greetings and appreciation of the people of Nicaragua and the leaders of the Sandinista National Liberation Front for supporting their struggle for the triumph of their popular revolution which removed the regime of the fascist clique which used to exercise domination and terrorism against the people of Nicaragua. It affirmed that, having achieved its freedom, Nicaragua is marching toward the realization of the masses system and that the Third World theory is now being taught in Nicaragua carefully and profoundly by members of the Sandinista Front. The guest delegation acquainted itself with certain aspects of economic and social development, and expressed its great admiration and pleasure at the achievements realized by the people of SPLAJ in all fields, thanks to the Great 1 September Revolution.

In an atmosphere imbued with friendship, extensive talks took place between the two delegations. Views were exchanged on bilateral relations and the means of consolidating and promoting them so as to achieve the aspirations and ambitions of the two friendly peoples. In this domain, an agreement was signed for agricultural cooperation. The two sides also agreed to conclude other agreements for financial, oil, trade, scientific and cultural cooperation and a program for mutual visits with the aim of strengthening and promoting the political, economic, cultural and scientific relations between the two friendly countries.

The two sides reviewed the situation in the Arab homeland, Africa and Latin America. The two sides affirmed anew the substance of the two joint statements issued in Tripoli on 30 October 1979 and in Managua on 5 December 1979.

Concerning the latest developments of the Arab situation, the two sides know that the imperialist plot led by the United States against the people of Palestine and the Arab nation has assumed a grave dimension threatening the interests of the Arab nation and the interests of world peace, following the declaration by the U.S. Government of its plans to establish permanent American military bases in the region to serve as a staging point for aggression and provocation and as a hotbed of tension. While strongly condemning these aggressive plans, they also strongly condemn the collusion of the Arab reactionary regimes, particularly the As-Sadat regime in Egypt which betrayed the cause of the people of Palestine and the causes of the just struggle of the Arab nation by signing the Stable David agreements and by turning Egypt's Arab land into a political and military sphere of influence for American imperialism and Zionism.

The two sides affirm anew their firm conviction that a settlement of the Palestine issue cannot be achieved except by total recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination and to the establishment of their own state and exercising their sovereignty over their national soil under the leadership of the PLO.

With regard to the development of recent events in the African Continent, the two sides expressed their absolute support for the struggle of the African people against colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism. They hailed the steadfastness and the struggle of the people of South Africa against racism and apartheid. They stress the need for the enforcement of the UN resolutions regarding the application of sanctions against racist regime of Pretoria and the need for the people of Namibia to attain their independence and sovereignty under the leadership of SWAPO, its legitimate and sole representative.

They also affirmed their support for the struggle of the people of Western Sahara for their right to self-determination in accordance with UN and OAU resolutions.

The Nicaraguan side expressed its high esteem for the role of the people of SPLAJ and the leader of their revolution, brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in helping and backing the liberation movements and the peoples struggling for their freedom and independence, including their backing of the people of Nicaragua, whose victorious revolution triumphed under the leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, as well as their backing to the people of Chad until they surmounted the plots of imperialism and its agents and restored security and stability and peace to their country.

In this connection, the Nicaraguan delegation affirmed its country's solidarity with the people of SPLAJ in confronting the provocations being carried out by imperialism and reaction along their borders and their violation of their skies and territorial waters.

The two sides showed concern over the recent developments in Central America and the Caribbean. They expressed their strong condemnation of the American imperialist interference in the internal affairs of the peoples of this region. In this connection, the Libyan Arab side expressed its solidarity with the Sandinista revolution, which is coming under economic pressures, concern at the armed attacks and attempts to ensnare Nicaragua in the entanglements which American imperialism is creating in El Salvador through continuous propaganda campaigns--campaigns which have failed.

The two sides affirm the right of these peoples to self-determination and their right to exercise their sovereignty and freedom without any outside interference.

Reviewing the international situation, the views of the two sides were generally identical with regard to the need to strengthen the Nonaligned Movement and their commitment to its aims and principles; they expressed their support for its resolutions. They also affirm their solidarity in the various international lobbies, particularly the Group of 77 for the formulation of a new international economic order based on equality and justice so as to ensure the realization of democracy in international life and the stability of world security and peace.

The Nicaraguan delegation expressed its thanks for the hospitality afforded to it and for the atmosphere of fraternity and friendship which pervaded the talks and for the positive results achieved in the interest of the two friendly peoples. On this occasion it addressed an invitation to brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison to visit Managua. The brother secretary accepted the invitation whose date will be fixed later.

[Signed] Tripoli, 12 March 1981

PAPER OUTLINES TASKS OF REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES

LD121009 London AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in English 6 Mar 81 p 15

[Unattributed article: "Inciting the Masses"]

[Text] The essence of the Libyan Jamahirayah is the concept of the authority of the people, whereby the masses have a direct say in their country and are directly responsible for the security, wealth and development of the nation. The people are armed and in this they will assume responsiblity for the defence of the nation and the revolution. But it is to the revolutionary committees that the overall responsibility of safeguarding the revolution must be devolved, so that with their incitement the masses can then move to assert all aspects of their authority.

The serious historical duty of the revolutionary committees is to incite the masses and enlighten them about the many critical stages that the Arab nation is passing through, as well as the many challenges that it faces. This educational thrust must be aimed at the masses in an attempt to raise their critical awareness of the events and ideologies that impinge on their nation and revolution. Thus for the Arab nation it means an understanding of the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary forces that are constantly on the offensive and which recently have been occupying parts of the Arab homeland thus hoping to encircle it.

There must be no illusions about this threat and the revolutionary committees have a specific responsibility to enlighten the masses on this matter and point the way to its defeat. Because of the wealth and strategic value of the Arab homeland, the imperialists in concert with the Zionists have made it a crusade to see that all these benefits are reserved exclusively for them. Any departure from this position would mean consistent attacks on the nation that breaks the line. That is the reason for the determination of the Americans to maintain a highly overt presence in the area so under the pretext of protecting "her vital interests" and aided by traitors among us, the imperialists can assert their dominance.

Carrying Arms

The revolutionary committees must bear the responsibility of also enlightening the masses about their destiny and future as well as inciting them to carry arms in preparation for the inevitable conflict with the enemies of freedom and unity and, specifically, the enemies of the Arab nation. Even a cursory examination of the situation would show that the enemies are increasing in number and becoming bolder in their initiatives each year. In fact the major imperialist power, the United States, has advanced militarily deeper into the Arab homeland. This is proven by the fact that the latest move occurred in Oman with a joint U.S.-Omani military exercise code-named Accurate Test '81 which will involve the test of communications capabilities.

No territory is safe from attack as the Americans test their so-called Rapid Deployment Force, and Accurate Test '81 is one of many tests undertaken recently to determine the potential of this force acting in concert with those regimes that have abandoned their historic role to keep the Arab homeland free of foreign domination. But the main surrogate of the imperialists in the area is the traitorous Egyptian leader, Anwar as-Sadat. His treachery has transformed Egypt into an aggressive imperialist base against the Arab nation and her progressive forces.

People's Authority

Resistance to these encroachments in the region must be mounted and it is the responsibility of the revolutionary committees to incite the masses to embrace their authority, so that a concerted and powerful attack can be made on the many forces that are seeking to hinder the many stages of revolutionary transformation. The committees must also define the enemy and make known to the masses all the ploys and subtleties of their power, so that in fighting them we do not expend our energies on diversions while leaving the real enemy free to operate under his many guises.

Who would have thought that the Zionists would have reached as far as the Jamahiriyah's border, threatening the nation of the Libyan masses not only by their presence but also by their potential to initiate hostilities with the full support of the As-Sadat regime. The masses must be made aware of their destiny so that they can be prepared for the inevitable conflict. Where there is treachery within, it must be exposed lest despondency sets in and the masses accept defeat. The enemy is not invincible and so revolutionary committees must educate the masses on the weaknesses of the enemy as well as the means to defeat it.

The revolutionary committes also have a responsibility to speed up the process whereby the masses are armed. Because the authority resides in the people it is also their responsibility in exercising that authority to defend themselves, nation and homeland. The people thus need to be trained in the use of arms so that the whole nation is the army with the task of repelling all invaders.

Meeting Places

This is a very important task which cannot be shirked as the whole future of the revolution depends on the effective working of the committees. These committees should be made up of conscious individuals who are aware fully of all dimensions of the struggle. This revolutionary consciousness is the essential pre-requisite for any member of the revolutionary committee as it determines success with the masses.

Such committees must have their own meeting places which will become the source of all revolutionary activities. These centres must be staffed by members and offer revolutionary culture to the masses and act as exemplars in behaviour, seriousness and commitment to all the ideals of the revolution. The whole ethos of the place must be towards creating a positive response to the many facets of the exercise of the people's authority which will enable the masses to be goaded into revolutionary action and resist representation.

MOROCCO

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON SAHARA, CHAD ISSUES

LD121612 Rabat MAP in English 1237 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Rabat, 12 Mar (MAP)--The major Maghreban and Islamic current issues were at the centre of an interview granted by the Moroccan premier and justice minister, Mr Maati Bouabid, to the Italian news agency "ANSA".

Mr Bouabid first dealt with the situation currently prevailing in north west Africa and the position of Morocco after a five year war and precised that "there is on one side Morocco which wants to safeguard its territorial integrity by protecting its Saharan provinces. Indeed the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces have complete control over the territory. On the other side, the adversaries of Morocco go on making noisy declarations on the imaginary rights of the so called Sahrawi people within international organizations".

The Moroccan premier and justice minister went on saying "In fact, international public opinon is increasingly aware, in the light of some international events such as Afghanistan and Chad, of the widening gap between the proclamation of generous principles and the reality of political strategies. Indeed, the changes in tone and attitude operated during the last meetings of the non-aligned in New Delhi and the European Parliament in Luxembourg are particularly significant".

Mr Bouabid also answered a question on the possibility of mediation between Morocco and Algeria and said "Morocco has always been open to the mediation and good office missions of friendly countries, and remains ready to contribute to any peace initiative within the framework of the respect of Moroccan territorial integrity and national sovereignty".

The Moroccan premier and justice minister later talked about Moroccans sequestrated in Tindouf, the current Moroccan investment code, and reaffirmed the Moroccan condemnation of the Libyan intervention in Chad saying "The position of Morocco is clear: Morocco strongly condemns Al-Qadhdhafi's hegemonistic and annexionist schemes, and hopes that Africa will assume its responsabilities in this regard and impose respect of its decisions."

OTRAG REPORTEDLY TO SUPPLY MISSILES TO LIBYA

LD121852 Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Rabat, 12 Mar (MAP)--We have learned from a well-informed source in Rabat that the Libyan Government has concluded an agreement valued at several million dollars with the West German company Orbital Transport Und Raketen A.G. (OTRAG).

The agreement provides for OTRAG to supply a number of surface-to-surface missiles capable of being fitted with a conventional warhead by 1983 and missiles capable of being fitted with a nuclear warhead by 1985.

The same source specifies that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has launched a form of 5-year nuclear plan intended to ensure that he will have nuclear weapons by the beginning of 1986.

It should be recalled that OTRAG carried out test launchings 800 km south of Tripoli on 1 March. The company announced this in a communique issued in Munich on 6 March.

OTRAG Denial

NC131136 Paris AFP in English 1120 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Munich, West Germany, 13 Mar (AFP)--West German rocket-maker OTRAG today categorically denied reports that they were supplying Libya with missiles for military use. The company's technical director Kurt Wukasch described as "false" reports from Morocco yesterday that missiles supplied by OTRAG would be developed to take nuclear warheads.

The reports originated from the test firing of a rocket on March 1 at an oasis test-site south of Tripoli, Mr Wukasch said. "Similar fantastic and tendencious rumours" were started after tests by the company in Zaire in 1978 and 1979, he recalled.

"Our small team of 45 highly qualified engineers is concerned with developing rockets for commercial and scientific use," he added.

Mr Wukasch also denied suggestions by the State Department in Washington that Libya was funding the development. Yesterday spokesman William Dyess cautioned Libya against diverting a "scientific research" project to military ends. The U.S. was watching OTRAG's operation in the Sabha region of Libya "very closely." he said.

TUNISIA

ISRAELI CLAIM OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION DENIED

LD121638 Tunis TAP in English 1410 GMT 12 Mar 81

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, 12 Mar (TAP)--"Tunisia's policy concerning the State of Israel has not changed and is not going to change in a foreseeable future" affirmed a spokesman of the Tunisian Foreign Ministry (?who was) giving thus a categorical denial to a fallacious and tendencious piece of news on the participation of Israel in scientific works in Tunisia within the framework of the fight against pollution in the Mediterranean.

The piece of news broadcast on Monday by the French news agency (AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE) in a despatch from Tel Aviv was also denied by the Tunisian delegation to the second meeting of contracting parties for the protection of the Mediterranean against pollution held last week in Cannes (France).

The Tunisian delegation confirmed that the Zionist allegations are a pure invention made by the Israeli delegate at the Cannes confererence, as a (?propaganda) after his proposal to install in Haifa the centre of the protected areas of the Mediterranean failed. The Cannes meeting has chosen Tunisia as the headquarters of this centre.

DJIBOUTI

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES KUWAITI DELEGATION

LD121626 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 11 Mar 81 EA

[Text] A Kuwaiti delegation currently in Djibouti was received today by Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Mr Moumine Bahdon Farah.

The Kuwaiti delegation is here to review the recent cooperation agreement between the Republic of Djibouti and Kuwait. The Kuwaiti Government has offered $7 million in aid to the Republic of Djibouti. The money is to be used to finance a project to build several hundred houses for the people of Djibouti.

An agreement on the implementation of the project was signed this morning by the Government of the Republic of Djibouti and the Kuwaiti Government.

ETHIOPIA

SIAKA STEVENS VISITS, MEETS WITH MENGISTU

OAU Headquarters Inspection

LD121936 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 12 Mar 81 EA

[Text] President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone and OAU current chairman, accompanied by Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, today visited the OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa. The two heads of state were welcomed at the African Unity House by Mr Edem Kodjo, OAU secretary general.

In a reply to a welcoming speech made by Mr Kodjo, President Stevens said that he had come to assess the conditions under which the OAU staff operate and the problems facing the General Secretariat. The Sierra Leonean leader called for efficient management of the secretariat and avoidance of wastage and nonessential expenditures. He also said that efforts should be made to recruit people who are not only qualified but also upright and devoted to the African cause and sympathetic to the plight of the less fortunate African brothers and sisters.

Stevens-Mengistu Talks

LD121252 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 81 EA

[Text] His Excellency Dr Siaka Stevens has said that the Ethiopian revolution, apart from making a radical transformation in political, economic and social developments in the country, has greatly contributed to Africa's political process. His Excellency Dr Siaka Stevens, president of the Republic of Sierra Leone and current chairman of the OAU, made the remarks at the national palace this morning during talks with Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, on bilateral relations and current African, regional and international issues.

His Excellency Dr Stevens said in his speech that there cannot be any meaningful discussion about the current political situation in Africa without a special focus on the Ethiopian revolution. He expressed his sincere hope that Comrade Chairman Mengistu will be able to discharge the great responsibility with which the Ethiopian people have entrusted him, and that the people and Government of socialist Ethiopia will score greater victories.

His Excellency President Stevens went on to say that the people of Sierra Leone are keenly and closely following the Ethiopian revolution, and added that his countrymen highly regard the great effort made in terms of the great sacrifices made in materials and lives to consolidate the revolution, and to safeguard the independence, dignity and unity of the country.

In addition his excellency the Sierra Leonean president expressed satisfaction at the results achieved in making rural land the property of the broad masses, and bringing urban land and surplus houses under state control, in waging the literacy campaign, and in other development projects to improve the living standards of the Ethiopian people, and to establish and strengthen social, political and economic structures based on democracy, equality and respect for human rights.

His Excellency President Stevens said that he was fully informed that, as a result of Comrade Chairman Mengistu's great effort, the tasks which he has undertaken with the cooperation of his colleagues and the broad masses of socialist Ethiopia are going well. In this respect he offered congratulations on the successful conclusion of the second regular session of the COPWE Central Committee.

His Excellency President Stevens said that Ethiopia has stated at various forums and confirmed in deeds that socialist Ethiopia respects the regulations and principles of the United Nations, the OAU and the Nonaligned Movement. In this connection he expressed pleasure at the existing gratifying relations between Ethiopia, the Republic of Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Sudan and the Republic of Djibouti as evidence of Ethiopia's strong desire to live peaceful with neighboring countries.

His Excellency President Siaka Stevens went on to say that he is gratified at the improvement of relations between socialist Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Sudan as a result of the efforts made by Comrade Chairman Mengistu and His Excellency President Ja'far Numayri, and of their exchange of official visits. He added that this confirms that the heads of state of the two countries strictly believe in the principle stipulated in the OAU Charter that problems arising between countries should be solved by peaceful means.

His Excellency President Stevens said that the OAU has reached a decisive stage in our struggle for economic development and full political independence. Regarding the economic state of the continent, he stressed the need to implement the Lagos program of action.

Touching on the political front, he said that although multifaceted and complex problems confront the OAU, they are not beyond its control.

For his part Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam said that His Excellency Dr Siaka Stevens' working visit to socialist Ethiopia will greatly contribute to the effort to further strengthen the long-standing friendship between the peoples of the two countries. He added that His Excellency President Stevens' contribution to strengthening the OAU in particular is highly regarded.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu also said that he is aware of the fact that the people and Government of Sierra Leone have been closely following, and know well of, the aims and progress of the Ethiopian revolution. Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam said that all the victories which have been scored and will be scored as a result of the sacrifices made and to be made by the Ethiopian broad masses are also victories for those who support their aim and cooperate with them.

He added that the current working visit to socialist Ethiopia by His Excellency President Stevens, leader of the brotherly people of Sierra Leone, further strengthens and develops the long-standing friendly relations between the two peoples and countries. The comrade chairman gave His Excellency President Stevens a detailed account of the distressing situation the Ethiopian broad masses were in before the revolution, and of the sacrifices they made and the victories they scored in the struggle against internal and external enemies to safeguard the revolution and the existence of the motherland.

Present on the Ethiopian side at the 4-hour talks between Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam and His Excellency President Siaka Stevens were Comrade Fiseha Desta, assistant secretary general of the PMAC, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and COPWE Executive Committee member; Comrade Berhanu Baye, member of the PMAC Standing Committee and COPWE Executive Committee member; Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle Giorgis, foreign minister and COPWE Central Committee member; Comrade Taye Tilahun, minister of interior; Comrade Tesfaye Wolde Selassie, minister of public and national security and COPWE Central Committee member; and Comrade Mengistu Gemechu, special assistant to the comrade chairman and COPWE Central Committee member.

Among those present on the side of the Republic of Sierra Leone were Hon (Sahr Silafom), deputy foreign minister; Honjoka Bangura, Sierra Leonean ambassador to socialist Ethiopia; Mr (Meles Garber), legal adviser; and Mr (Jod Taylor), deputy secretary in the president's office.

FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH OLIVIER STIRN

LD121942 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 12 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, minister of foreign affairs and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Central Committee member, held talks today on bilateral and international issues with Mr Olivier Stirn, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation of France. Mr Stirn arrived here earlier in the day to present a special message to Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam from President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France.

Comrade Dr Feleke and Mr Stirn discussed bilateral relations and issues pertaining to Africa, in particular the Horn of Africa.

ERITREAN ADMINISTRATOR VISITS DROUGHT-HIT PROVINCE

LD102144 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 10 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Fikre Wolde Tensai, chief administrator of the Eritrea region, today urged the people of Gash and Setit Province, in the administrative region of Eritrea, to redouble their struggle for the preservation of the territorial integrity of the motherland, the further strengthening of the revolution, the ultimate realization of the socialist system in Ethiopia, and to stand fast against natural calamities.

The comrade chief administrator said this in his speech to the inhabitants of Barentu town, where he went yesterday to inspect the reported shortage of grain caused by drought. Present on the occasion were Comrade Brig Gen Lemesa Bedane, commander of the region's police force; Comrade Fetawi Berhane, head of the region's relief and rehabilition office; and Comrade Girmay Araya, representative of the Domestic Trade Ministry in the region.

Comrade Fikre said that the people of Gash and Setit Province, like the people of the other provinces in the country, were making sacrifices for the realization of socialist construction, adding that the steps the people of the province were taking in cooperation with the revolutionary army against the anti-unity and antipeople secessionsists were necessary both at present and in the future. He also asserted that the few problems facing the province at present would be solved once and for all at the earliest possible time, under the leadership of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia.

During his visit the comrade administrator discussed the drought situation and the steps taken to fight it with government officials and representatives of mass organizations in the province.

EPLF 'DESTROYS' TWO URBAN DWELLERS' ASSOCIATIONS

LD121218 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrina 0400 GMT 12 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The heroic guerrillas of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] have destroyed the Dergue's urban dwellers' associations in (Adi Yakob) and (Hazega). The fascist Dergue set up the urban dwellers' associations with the intention of dividing the people of Eritrea and for the purpose of spying. The urban dwellers' associations were destroyed on 8 March 1981 and their former officials put under control. While most of the officials of these urban dwellers' associations were released after having been given political education and advice, three officials of the (Hazega) urban dwellers' associations are still being detained by our guerrillas for further advice and political education.

The action taken by our guerrillas in (Adi Yakob) and (Hazega) is part of the political struggle being waged by the EPLF to destroy the Dergue's urban dwellers' associations and thus its rule over our land. This kind of action has been taken before and will continue to be taken.

TIGRE PEOPLE'S FRONT NOTES MARCH CASUALTIES

LD121230 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrina 0400 GMT 12 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Reports from the Tigre People's Liberation Front [TPLF] confirm that guerrillas of the TPLF have attacked the Dergue soldiers in the environs of (Mehone), killing three enemy soldiers and wounding another eight.

Meanwhile, on 5 March 1981 a military truck carrying 30 Dergue soldiers overturned at (Betmara) while on its way from Maych' Awy to (Mekele), killing 24 of the occupants and injuring 6 others.

BRIEFS

SOVIET AID--The USSR Government yesterday donated 12,000 metric tons of wheat, 50 Zil-130 trucks, 50 water tanks and 10 water pumps, all estimated to be worth 12 million birr, to the Relief Coordination and Rehabilitation Commission. The donations were handed over at the port of Assab to Commissioner Shimelis Adugna, commissioner of the Relief Coordination and Rehabilitation Commission and member of the Central Committee of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia, by Comrade Boris Kirnasovskiy, Soviet ambassador to Ethiopia. [Excerpt] [Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0330 GMT 12 Mar 81 LD/EA]

SOMALIA

RADIO KULMIS CITES REBEL OPPOSITION TO SIAD BARRE

LD121340 (Clandestine) Radio Kulmis in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Garoe--The Radio Kulmis correspondent, reporting from Nogal region, says in his dispatch from the town of Garoe that the ninth company of the General Aynanshe Battalion have completely destroyed the (Rabableh) bridge. This is the main bridge joining the north and south of Somalia. This main bridge connects the capital of the country, Mogadishu, to Burao town. All the villages around the destroyed bridge are now in the hands of the Somali Salvation Front [SSF] forces, said our reporter.

Galcaio--The Radio Kulmis correspondent in Mudugh region reports that the General Aynanshe Battalion of the SSF have blown up a Fiat truck and killed all the soldiers on board, including two senior officers. These dead militia are among the unfortunate ones who are still loyal to the Afweyneh regime [of Siad Barre].

Belet Uen--Our reporter stationed in Belet Uen in the Hiran region reports that in the past few weeks the terror gang of Afweyneh have been dispatching several members of the so-called Supreme Revolutionary Council of the hyena of Garba Harre [reference to Siad Barre] to various parts of the country and have sent 'Abd ar-Razzaq Mahmud Abu Bakr, who is one of the biggest of the stooges of the hyena of Garba Harre, to Hiran region, where he was confronted with a huge anti-Siad demonstration. The people concentrated into the destitute camps in Hiran region were infuriated by the baseless lies of development achievements announced by stooge Abd ar-Razzaq and aimed at misleading them.

The hungry, thirsty and unclothed destitutes were angered by the attempt of Abd ar-Razzaq Mahmud Abu Bakr to lie to them while they are suffering from hunger, thirst and disease. Abd ar-Razzaq and his vehicle were met with a barrage of stones which destroyed the vehicle, but the stooge 'Abd ar-Razzaq Mahmud Abu Bakr was saved by the soldier accompanying him. The hungry Belet Uen people are embittered by the childish brainwashing propaganda from the terror gang led by the hyena of Garba Harre aimed at placating them. Their anger was increased by the constant conscription of all the able-bodied inhabitants of the region to the militia of Afweyneh.

The Radio Kulmis reporter at Belet Uen in Mudugh region reports that all students have boycotted classes and are complaining about the poor educational system. They are against being taught only to sing the praises of Afweyneh and his terror gang. The radio Kulmis reporter from Belet Uen adds that the students who boycotted classes have daubed on the walls of the town of Belet Uen slogans and words denouncing the unjust terror gang of Siad Barre. In addition the Somali students who boycotted classes have daubed on the walls of the town slogans in support of the SSF and supporting the struggle of the SSF.

WSLF REPORTS ON FEBRUARY, MARCH SUCCESSES

20 Feb Battle

LD071534 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] On 20 February the heroic Western Somali Liberation Front freedom fighters attacked Abyssinian black colonialist soldiers stationed at (Orba) in Jijiga area, killing eight enemy soldiers as well as inflicting other serious losses. After accomplishing their mission the freedom fighters returned safely to base.

9 Mar Report

LD091152 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 9 Mar 81 EA

[Text] A statement issued by the Western Somali Liberation Front in Kuwait yesterday said it had intensified its armed struggle this month in western Somalia. The statement went on to say that during this month the freedom fighters had killed 180 enemy soldiers and wounded many others. The statement concluded by saying that the freedom fighters were now engaged in fierce clashes in the vicinity of [name indistinct] town as well as in various other parts of western Somalia.

22 Feb, 2 Mar Encounters

LD101156 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somali 0930 GMT 10 Mar 81 EA

[Text] On 22 February Western Somali Liberation Front [WSLD] forces attacked Abyssinian black colonialist troops moving through an area between Jijiga and Harar. In that attack 35 Abyssinian soldiers were killed and many others were wounded and large quantities of arms and ammunition were captured. Two WSLF soldiers were injured.

In another encounter which took place on 2 March between the WSLF and the Abyssinian troops at (Kobitaro) in Fiambiro area, five black colonialist Mengistu soldiers were killed and others were wounded.

In the above-reported attacks the Abyssinian troops were taught unforgettable lessons.

8 Mar Clash

LD111352 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 11 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The heroic Western Somali Liberation Front [WSLF] fighters engaged in bitter clashes on 8 March, in (Burhalow), (Gode) District, with Abyssinian black colonialist forces, setting ablaze five enemy vehicles and capturing two other vehicles. In these clashes the freedom fighters inflicted heavy losses in men and material on the Abyssinian enemy forces. The WSLF lost 10 martyrs and 8 people were wounded.

Latest reports reaching us say that the fighting is still continuing and that the WSLF fighters are continuing their struggle, maintaining the upper hand in (Burhalow).

BRIEFS

KENYAN DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY--His Excellency President Daniel Arap Moi this morning received a special message from President Aboud Jumbe of Zanzibar, at State House, Nairobi. The message, whose contents were not revealed, was delivered to the president by the Zanzibari junior minister for agriculture, Mr Abdalla Rashid. Mr Rashid was accompanied by the director of animal husbandry, Dr (Umar Ali), and Mr (Bakari) from the office of the president in Zanzibar. Present during the ceremony was minister of state in the president's office Mr Nicholas Biwott and the chief of the General Staff, General Mulinge. At State House, also, the president this morning said farewell to the outgoing Liberian ambassador to Kenya, Mr James Freeman. Mr Freeman has been posted by his government as Liberian ambassador to Italy. Mr Freeman thanked the president and the Kenya Government for their cooperation in making Kenya a home for him during his tour of duty. [Text] [Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 9 Mar 81 LD/EA]

TANZANIAN OFFICIAL--President Nyerere has appointed Ndugu Ole Saibul director of conservation of the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority. Before this appointment Nugu Ole Saibul was minister of natural resources and tourism. He has held various positions including that of controller and director of regional development. He takes the post formerly held by Ndugu Mgina. [Text] [Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 6 Mar 81 EA]

CUBAN AID TO UGANDA--The government has expressed gratitude to the Cuban Government for their continued assistance to Uganda. Receiving medical supplies from the Cuban charge d'affaires, Mr (Ruben Franco), at Entebbe, the minister of health, Dr Nkwasibwe, said that the health of the people is very important if Ugandans are to work towards self-reliance. The Cuban charge d'affaires assured the minister of his country's readiness to help Uganda and disclosed that another consignment of drugs from Cuba is expected to arrive soon. And the Soviet Red Cross Society has donated 75 cartons of medical drugs to the Uganda Red Cross Society. The Russian economic counsellor in Uganda, Mr (Tikenkov), handed the relief aid to the permanent secretary, Ministry of Health, Mr (Deta). The Russian counsellor expressed the hope that the drugs will contribute to the rehabilitation of medical services in Uganda and strengthen further the good relationship existing between Uganda and the Soviet Union. Mr (Deta) expressed gratitude to the Soviet Red Cross Society and the Russian Government for the response they have given Uganda in her time of rehabilitation. [Text] [Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 12 Mar 81 LD/EA]

UGANDAN ENVOY TO U.S.--Mr John Wycliff Lwamafa has been appointed Uganda's ambassador to the United States. Mr Lwamafa, who is 53, was educated at King's College, Buddo, and Makerere College. He was elected to the Uganda Legislative Council in 1958 and served as parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Education and Labor. At independence he was elected MP. He served as a Cabinet minister holding several portfolios at different times from 1962 until 1971. [Text] [Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Mar 81 LD/EA]

UGANDAN PARTY OFFICIALS--President Obote has announced the officials of the Uganda People's Congress. The party's vice president is Paulo Muwanga; chairman, John Babiiha; vice chairman [name indistinct]; secretary general, John Luwiluza Kirunda; secretary general, Mrs (Kite Ogwar); treasurer, Mr Patrick Masike Kunya; and assistant treasurer, Mrs (Arien Omot). The president announced the officials of the party at a meeting of the Executive Committee held in Kampala today. [Excerpt] [Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 11 Mar 81 LD/EA]

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

DACKO'S OPPONENTS ALLEGE FRAUDULENT MANEUVERS

AB131341 Paris AFP in French 1104 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Bangui, 13 Mar (AFP)--Observers in Bangji said on Friday that the four opposition candidates in the presidential elections scheduled to take place in the CAR on Sunday have continued to focus their attacks on outgoing President David Dacko while sparing one another.

On Thursday evening, Mr Ange Patasse of the Central African People's Liberation Movement, Mr Francois Rehoua, an independent candidate, Mr Abel Goumba of the Ubangui's People Patriotic Front and Henri Maidou of the Republican Party for Progress issued a communique accusing the head of state and his accomplices of fraudulent maneuvers before the balloting.

The four men affirm that priority is being given to distribution of voters cards in quarters or localities controlled by Mr David Dacko's Central African Democratic Union. They also say that envelopes containing candidate Dacko's ballot papers are already being distributed in some religious circles.

For his part, the head of state does not want to answer such attacks, especially those most personal, made by his four adversaries. He has pledged his determination to carry out his electoral campaign without any foul blows, and he has chosen to talk essentially about the future of the country and not about politician's politics. This has been announced by his campaign headquarters.

In his electoral speech on Thursday, Mr David Dacko brought up the issue of his program of economic and financial recovery during the next 2 years. He said that was his major preoccupation.

ANGE PATASSE CALLS FOR FRENCH ARMY NEUTRALITY

AB131354 Paris AFP in French 1133 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Bangui, 13 Mar (AFP)--Mr Ange Patasse, former prime minister under ex-Emperor Bokassa and candidate in the presidential elections due in Central Africa on Sunday, has asked the French Army to remain neutral during the electoral campaign. During a televised broadcast on Thursday which was part of the official electoral campaign, Mr Patasse called on the Central African army not to stage a military coup. Mr Patasse also expressed the hope that Central Africa's diamonds will be exploited exclusively in the interest of the Central African people and not by foreign companies in which Mr David Dacko is a partner, he said. Lastly, Mr Patasse renewed his request for the extradition of former Emperor Bokassa, who is currently under house arrest in the Ivory Coast.

French officials in Bangui strongly deny any military interference--through men or equipment--in the electoral campaign.

Moreover, observers in Central Africa say that the presence of the French Army has been very discreet for some weeks now.

After the unrest that followed the arrival of additional French soldiers sent to Bouar in the western part of the country in January to face the Libyan threat in Chad, the Barracuda group, which has been in Bangui since September 1979, went back to its barracks and patrols in the Central African capital were suppressed.

GABON

BONGO ADDRESS TO NATION ON PARTY ANNIVERSARY

AB112153 Paris AFP in French 1846 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Libreville, 11 March (AFP)--President Bongo of Gabon has called on his fellow countrymen to become vigorously aware of their duties in order to give new impetus to the renovation of the country and to give democratic and concrete progress a new impetus for the conquest of individual and collective well-being. In a message to the nation broadcast Wednesday evening on the occasion of the third anniversary of the creation of the Gabonese Democratic Party, the sole party, the head of state stressed that this awareness should be observed first of all by the leaders and heads followed by the top level personnel and finally by the masses.

The leaders and heads, he said, must put the achievement of the aims and priorities of the struggle against the lack of equipment above everything, in a spirit of equity and if necessary, one of sacrifice. In this respect, he added, they must be close to the people, must identify themselves with the people and must work towards achieving their aspirations and their needs.

President Bongo called on the cadres to put national interest above their personal interests and to fulfill their duties and obligations before seeking their rights derived from the duties and before using their advantages in an abusive manner.

After recalling that the renovation instituted in 1968 is a real charter for development and progress, President Bongo stressed that there was a need to build according to well-defined plans drawn up with the help of the principal economic agents but supervised by the head of state, the sole trustee and guarantor of the general interest and of future of the country.

Economic progress, which conditions the improvement of the way of life of the whole people, he said, requires the convergent efforts of vertical and horizontal growth and the diversification of production and industry. It requires the development and modernization of agriculture and the extending of basic products.

The head of state stressed the importance of the training of highly qualified personnel, engineers, administrators, magistrates and professors...and especially the rapid emergence of skilled workers and a class of company directors and shrewd businessmen. This, he explained, is in order to proceed rapidly with the true Gabonization of the personnel of the main firms and to ensure real promoting of the small-scale Gabonese enterprises.

ZAIRE

KOLWEZI OFFICIALS BAN ILLEGAL RELIGIOUS SECTS

AB111044 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1431 GMT 10 Mar 81

[Text] Kolwezi, 10 Mar (AZAP)--The Kolwezi municipal authorities have banned all religious sects without proper legal recognition. Kolwezi mayor's office, which announced the news, said the proliferation of religious sects has constituted a source of revenue for some cadres. The necessary directives have been given to all zonal commissioners and security service in order to put an end to the proliferation of illegal religious sects. The (?municipality) of Kolwezi alone has about 100 religious sects in activity.

GHANA

SIERRA LEONE'S STEVENS PAYS VISIT, COMMENTS

AB092201 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Mar 81

[Excerpt] President Siaka Stevens, who is on a day's state visit to Ghana, has had talks with the vice chancellor of the University of Ghana, Professor Adjei-Bekoe and the deans of the various faculties of the university. He said despite the numerous problems facing the OAU, the organization is determined to fulfill the expectations of the people of the continent.

Dr Stevens, who is also the chairman of the OAU, said that the war in Chad and the Sahara constitute big obstacles in the work of the organization. He described the wars on the continent as proxy wars because when one tries to settle them one realizes that it is not the people on the battlefield one is dealing with but outsiders. President Stevens said outside interference in the war in Chad and the Sahara has contributed to the difficulty in finding a solution to them.

GHANAIAN DEATHS IN ABIDJAN JAIL SPARK PROTESTS

Official Protest

AB101951 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 10 Mar 81

[Text] The Ghana ambassador to the Ivory Coast has protested to the Ivorian Government over the incident in which more than 40 Ghanaians were suffocated to death while in police custody.

A spokesman for the Ghana Embassy in Abidjan said so far the embassy had still to be officially informed by the Ivory Coast authorities of the deaths, but they have been reliably informed that following a police swoop on suspected criminals, nearly 60 people had been locked up in a small cell in the police barracks on the outskirts of Abidjan. Forty-six of them, all Ghanaians, died and police refused to hear their cries for air and water. The spokesman added that 9 other Ghanaian nationals living in the Ivory Coast apart from [words indistinct] immigrants from neighboring west African countries are still missing.

The only statement so far from the Ivory Coast Government has acknowledged that the men died because their cell was too small and insufficiently ventilated. President Houphouet-Boigny is said to have ordered an inquiry and promised that those responsible would be punished.

Meanwhile, President Limann is sending the minister of interior, Dr Ekow Daniels, to Abidjan tomorrow to deliver a personal message to President Houphouet-Boigny following reports about the deaths of those Ghanaians.

Legislators' Remarks

AB111847 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Parliament today focused attention on the alleged suffocation to death of 46 Ghanaians in the Ivory Coast, and the premature closure of the second cycle institutions in the country. This was the result of statements by the member for Cape Coast, Mr (Abenye) on the death of the Ghanaians and the member for Takoradi, Mr (Grah), on the closure of schools.

Mr (Abenye) said the Ivory Coast incidents coming just 1 year after the black Maria episode in Nigeria and at a time when Ghanaians are still undergoing bitter experiences in Nigeria should make all Ghanaians worry about the lives of fellow citizens living in neighboring states.

He said it is very pathetic that in spite of the strenuous efforts by President Limann to foster friendly relations between Ghana and her neighbors, such brutality against Ghanaians should continue.

Although Mr (Abenye) welcomed the prompt action by Presidents Houphouet-Boigny and Limann over the incident, he said the behavior of the Ivorian police must be denounced vehemently. Mr (Abenye) called on Ghana's diplomatic missions abroad to show greater concern for Ghanaians in their areas. Such citizens must be registered and there should be regular meetings with them to enable the mission to know their problems and help to solve them.

Members condemned the cruelty being meted out to Ghanaians in neighboring states. They urged those nations to treat Ghanaians fairly and with human dignity as is being done to all foreigners in Ghana.

IVORY COAST

MILITARY MANEUVERS WITH FRANCE END 12 MAR

AB122221 Paris AFP in French 1817 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Touba, Ivory Coast, 12 March (AFP)--Important French-Ivorian military maneuvers which began on 7 March in the southwestern part of the Ivory Coast ended on Thursday in Touba, a town situated a few kilometers from the Guinean border, with an impressive military parade.

These maneuvers, which fall within the framework of the Franco-Ivorian defense agreements of 24 April 1961 and which, according to observers, were mainly aimed at testing the future functioning of a French intervention force in Africa, were carried out by 1,500 French soldiers, 1,800 Ivorian soldiers and a large amount of military equipment.

Their main objective was to repell the attack of an imaginary enemy from west of the country who had invaded a sizeable portion of Ivorian territory. According to the heads of the operation the maneuvers made it possible to test, in particular, the efficiency of the French AML-90 armored equipment and the Ivorian M3 transport vehicles and to note the importance of aerial support, especially by Jaguar planes, for this type of operation carried out in the middle of the forest, in areas where trails are poorly guarded against guerrilla attacks.

According to the officers, these maneuvers also made it possible to test the transmitting equipment. This, they pointed out, did not always meet their expectations, especially because of the difficulty in communicating in a humid tropical area.

Also, for the first time a flying command post was set up aboard a Transall plane. According to the officers, it functioned perfectly.

Two French naval ships--the Ouragan, a landing craft, and the Bidassoa, a tank landing craft, sailed especially from France to participate in the operations and especially to land the French troops and their armored equipment at San Pedro and its immediate surroundings.

Military observers from six African countries--Togo, Senegal, Niger, Upper Volta, Central African Republic and Gabon--also took part in the maneuvers and in the evaluation sessions which followed.

The last Franco-Ivorian maneuvers took place in March 1978, in the Korhogo region while the last large-scale Franco-African manuevers took place last year in Senegal. Franco-Togolese military maneuvers will take place from 15 to 21 March in Togo, it was also announced in Paris.

SENEGAL

GUINEA-BISSAU'S VIEIRA EXPECTED TO ARRIVE 14 MAR

AB121034 Paris AFP in French 0725 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Dakar, 12 Mar (AFP)--The chairman of the Revolutionary Council of Guinea-Bissau, Mr Joao Bernardo Vieira, is expected in Dakar on Saturday for a working visit within the framework of the efforts to strengthen the friendly and cooperative ties between the neighboring countries undertaken by the Revolutionary Council after the overthrow of President Luis Cabral on 14 November last year.

President Vieira will be accompanied by Mr Samba Lamine Mane, member of the Revolutionary Council and commissioner of natural resources; Mr Botha Mbathia, member of the Revoutionary Council and commander of the national navy; Mr Joseph Turpin, member of the Revolutionary Council and commissioner of fishing and trade; Mr Avito da Silva, commissioner of rural development; and other top officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs. During his stay in Dakar, the Guinean head of state will hold many discussions with Senegalese authorities and will meet the Guinea-Bissau community.

The announcement of this visit to Dakar appears to confirm information from Bissau that the summit that was scheduled to take place in Maputo on 12 March between Mr Vieira and Mr Aristides Pereira, president of Cape Verde, will not take place. It was the Cape Verdian prime minister, Mr Pedro Pires, who mentioned this summit for the first time before the Cape Verdian assembly, but without mentioning any date.

Reliable sources in Praia confirmed in the past few days that the date of 12 March has been set. This meeting was aimed at reconciling the heads of state of these two countries, which were ruled by the same party, the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde (PAIGC), until the 14 November coup d'etat in Bissau. The PAIGC was subsequently replaced in Cape Verde by the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde.

Well informed sources state that the meeting was prepared by Mr Marcelino dos Santos, secretary of the Frelimo Central Committee in Mozambique, during his mediation visits to Bissau and Praia.

According to information coming from Bissau, the Revolutionary Council might not have agreed to the date of 12 March.

GUINEA-BISSAU OPPOSITION GROUP TO DISBAND

AB101435 Paris AFP in French 1322 GMT 10 Mar 81

[Text] Dakar, 10 Mar (AFP)--The process of the self-disbandment of the Guinea-Bissau opposition movement, the Front for the Struggle for Independence of Guinea-Bissau (FLING), has begun with the holding of minicongress in Dakar and Bissau, it was disclosed by the president of the FLING, Mr Cirilio Rodrigues Oliveira, in a communique delivered to AFP.

The FLING, created in August 1964, has been dormant since 1966, following the OAU's decision to withdraw its aid to it. The movement was opposed to the African Independence Party of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands and especially opposed to its program for unity between Bissau and Praia.

In his communique, Mr Oliveira said he has returned from a 3-month trip to Guinea-Bissau, during which he was received by Gen Joao Bernardo Bieira, president of the Revolutionary Council which overthrew President Luis Cabral.

Mr Oliveira said one of the FLING's objectives has been obtained with the coup d'etat whose achievements constitutes an irreversible step toward the true independence of Guinea-Bissau.

The disbandment of FLING, Mr Oliveira said, was aimed at facilitating national unity. The final disbandment will be declared at minicongresses in Bissau, Dakar, Paris and Lisbon.

At the end of these congresses, the FLING will send an eight-member delegation to Bissau to present the final resolution of the dissolution to the Revolutionary Council, Mr Oliveira said.

Finally, he asked in his communique that former FLING members not be discriminated against nor put on trial, and thanked members of the Revolutionary Council for the warm welcome accorded him during his stay in Bissau.

The return of former opponents to Guinea-Bissau has been accepted in principle by the new leaders of the country who specified that any return to the country and subsequent inclusion in the state administration or party will be examined on an individual basis and each case will be decided on its merit.

UPPER VOLTA

DECREE PUBLISHED ON TRAVEL PERMIT PROCEDURES

AB131021 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Decree No 81-0135 CMRPN defining the conditions of delivery and utilization of the laisser-passers, instituted by Ordinance No 81-0008 CMRPN of 11 March 1981: The chairman of the Military Committee for Redress and National Progress [CMRPN] and of the Council of Ministers and head of state decrees:

Article 1: In application of Ordinance No 81-0008 CMRPN of 11 March 1981, the following people are entitled to a laisser-passer: state functionaries and agents going abroad on leave; Upper Voltan students, pupils and trainees continuing their studies abroad; Upper Voltan traders, businessmen and independent workers who conduct their activities wholly or partly outside the national territory; workers with valid contracts to be executed outside the national territory; social and cultural groups as well as all Upper Voltan nationals not affected by Article 1 of Ordinance No 81-0008 CMRPN of 11 March 1981. This is left to the discretion of the competent authorities.

Article 2: Mission orders delivered to state functionaries and agents, state functionaries serving abroad and Upper Voltan functionaries and agents enjoying the status of international functionaries as well as medical orders relating to the transfer of patients abroad can serve as a laisser-passer.

Article 3: Notwithstanding the presentation of the usual travel permits, the laisser-passer can be delivered only after the applicant has justified his right to it by presenting appropriate documents--such as permission to go on leave, the copy of the decree permitting one to go abroad for further studies, documents proving that one is a student, a student card, documents proving that one has been admitted to an institution of higher learning or to a primary or secondary school, and work contracts duly signed either by Upper Voltan embassies or consulates in the foreign countries concerned--to the national labor department or any other competent authority.

Article 4: The laisser-passer is delivered by the prefect or subprefect of the applicant's place of origin. The delivery of the laisser-passer is subject to the presentation of an application giving the reasons for the request and of a valid identity card.

Article 5: The laisser-passer is valid for 6 months beginning from the date of its delivery.

Article 6: The laisser-passer must give the name, first name, complete address and occupation of the holder, his usual place of residence, his destination, the reason for the travel, the proposed date of return to the country and the duration of the stay abroad. It must compulsorily bear the holder's picture.

Article 7: The authorities empowered to issue the laisser-passer must compulsorily send a copy of it to the central card-index cabinet of the Interior and Security Ministry.

Article 8: Anyone who obtains or tries to obtain a laisser-passer by presenting a borrowed, stolen, forged or falsified identity card; who lends, borrows or utilizes a borrowed laisser-passer; who forges or falsifies a laisser-passer; or who utilizes a forged or falsified laisser-passer will be penalized in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of Ordinance No 81-0008 CMRPN of 11 March 1981.

Article 9: The minister of national defense and war veterans, the minister of interior and security, the minister of justice and keeper of the seals, the finance minister, the civil service and labor minister, the minister of environment and tourism and the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation are individually responsible for the execution of this decree, which will be registered and published in the official gazette and wherever there is need.

[Issued in] Ouagadougou on 12 March 1981. [Signed] Col Saye Zerbo

BRIEFS

IDB AID TO NIGER--Khartoum, 4 Mar (AFP)--In Khartoum on Wednesday, the International Development Bank and Niger signed an agreement, according to which the bank will finance crude oil imports amounting to $20 million, an IDB release announced on Wednesday. This new agreement brings to $59.3 million the amount given to Niger to finance external trade operations. [Paris AFP in French 1728 GMT 4 Mar 81 AB]

ANGOLA

LUANDA PAPER CRITICIZES 'ADVENTURIST' U.S. POLICY

AB130745 Paris AFP in English 0721 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Windhoek, Namibia, 13 Mar (AFP)--An official Namibian delegation leaving for the United States today has not been invited to meet with President Ronald Reagan or Secretary of State Alexander Haig, government leader Dirk Mudge said here yesterday.

He quoted a letter from the U.S. State Department saying that high-ranking American officials would meet the Namibian delegation, but that a meeting with Mr Reagan or Mr Haig was not possible yet, since U.S. policy toward Namibia was still being defined.

In Luanda, the official newspaper JORNAL DE ANGOLA accused the Reagan administration of laying the groundwork for an adventurist foreign policy. Noting indications of U.S. opposition to nationalist guerrillas in Namibia and possible support for the UNITA fighters in Angola.

In an editorial, the DAILY denounced U.S. support for the Namibian puppets who have sold out to South Africa, and criticized the U.S. invitation to UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi to meet with Reagan administration officials in Washington.

BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION INCREASE--Angolan oil production is expected to increase by 17 percent this year to 200,000 barrels a day. The oil minister, Mr Jorge Morais, says that by 1985 production from deposits discovered to date will rise to between 300,000 and 400,000 barrels a day. Angola's present oilfields are off its northern coast and the enclave of Cabinda. The government has (?divided) the west coast into 10 blocks for exploration. [Text] [Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 2 Mar 81]

EDUCATION AGREEMENT WITH GDR--An agreement in the fields of middle and higher education and professional training was signed yesterday in Luanda between Angola and the GDR. This agreement, signed at the end of the first session of the subcommittee on education of the Angolan-GDR joint commission, provides for sending Angolan students to the GDR and the arrival of German professors at the University of Angola. [Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 4 Mar 81 AB]

MADAGASCAR

PRESIDENT STUDIES RICE PRODUCTION PROBLEMS

AB131040 Paris AFP in French 0847 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Antananarivo, 13 Mar (AFP)--About a third of the rice farms in the Lake Alaotra region (200 km northeast of the capital), the major rice producing area in Madagascar, could not be cultivated because of drought, it was learned on Thursday during a visit to the region by the head of state, Mr Didier Ratsiraka.

Out of 106,000 hectares of rice farms, 35,000 hectares could not be planted this year. This means a loss of 50,000 tons of unhusked rice.

President Ratsiraka paid a visit to the region to discuss with farmers and technicians problems concerning rice production and the resumption of large-scale rice production, which has begun all over the island.

They studied in particular the problems of production price and seeds for rapidly producing out-of-season rice to alleviate the envisaged deficit.

Concerning the production price for paddy (unhusked rice), which is presently 41 Malagasy francs [FMG] (50FMG: 1 FR), President Ratsiraka thought it scandalous that Madagascar has to import 180,000 tons of polished rice because local production for the market hardly reaches an equal amount. If Lake Alaotra could swear to me that it will double its annual production, the importation of rice could be canceled, and then we could envisage paying 50 or even 60 FMG to the producer, the president affirmed.

OPPOSITION PARTY TO REJOIN NATIONAL FRONT

AB101300 Paris AFP in French 0813 GMT 10 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Antananarivo 10 Mar (AFP)--Mr Monja Jaona's National Movement for the Independence of Madagascar [MONIMA], the extreme left and opposition party, a dissident group of the National Front for the Defense of the Revolution, has decided to reintegrate with this front, radio Madagascar announced Monday night. The national radio added that this decision was made during discussions which the head of state, Mr Didier Ratsiraka, held with Mr Monja Jaona, MONIMA national chairman, on Monday.

The radio did not indicate the place of the interview but only reported the president's decision to allow the aged MONIMA leader, now 80 years old, to return to his home in Toliary (formerly Tulear, on the west coast). It is recalled that having been put under house arrest at Ihosy (a town 600 km from the capital), Mr Monja Jaona was caught at the end of last November in Antananarivo, where he had moved after organizing various demonstations in his constituency, the Tulear region, 2 days earlier, and where strikes by students and teachers had just been begun at the university. Observers feel generally that the return of Mr Monja Jaona to the fold is a prelude to a reshuffle in the Supreme Council of the Revolution, or the government, and a step toward the normalization of political life in Antananarivo, where a curfew is still in force from 2000 to 0430.

MOZAMBIQUE

JOINT COMMISSION WITH ANGOLA MEETS IN MAPUTO

LD121618 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 12 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Jacinto Veloso, the Mozambique minister of security, speaking in Maputo this morning, reaffirmed the need for Mozambique and Angola to strengthen their unity with the aim of developing sociopolitical and economic cooperation between the two countries. The member of the permanent political committee of the Frelimo Party was speaking at the opening of the second session of the Mozambique-Angola joint commission, which opened in Maputo today to evaluate progress made since the first session which took place in 1978 in Luanda.

Jacinto Veloso, the president of the commission, later reaffirmed that the political and ideological identity of the peoples of Mozambique and Angola lies in their having been the victims of imperialist aggression by the South African racists. The leader of the Angolan delegation, Roberto de Almeida, minister of planning, said that the session should lay great emphasis on political cooperation between the two countries.

JOINT COMMISSION WITH TANZANIA SESSION OPENS

LD122016 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 12 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The proceedings of the sixth session of the Mozambique-Tanzania Joint Commission started in Maputo this morning. The delegations to the proceedings are led by Marcelino dos Santos, the party's Central Committee secretary for economic policy, and K.A. Malima, member of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi Central Committee and Tanzanian minister of state for economic affairs and planning.

Speaking on relations between the two countries at the opening session, Marcelino dos Santos said that Mozambique and Tanzania have always been together in the struggle for the political liberation of their peoples and they are together today and will be tomorrow in the struggle for economic liberation.

Marcelino dos Santos also said that the cooperation between Mozambique and Tanzania comes within the framework of the struggle being waged by many countries of our region, and underlined the role of imperialism which, through the apartheid regime, seeks to frustrate this objective.

MINISTRY CONFIRMS DETENTION OF TWO U.S. CITIZENS

LD121934 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 12 Mar 81 EA

[Text] According to information confirmed by the Ministry of Security, two U.S. citizens are being held in prison by the Mozambique authorities. They are Mr (Arthur Zimmerman) and (Cal Morrell). The former is an employee of the Mabor tire company in Maputo and was detained on 4 March. The latter is a biology lecturer at Eduardo Mondlane University and was detained on 7 March.

NOTICIAS PUBLISHES STATEMENT BY ANC MILITANT

LD121538 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 12 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The newspaper NOTICIAS has published a statement by a militant of the African National Congress [ANC] of South Africa. The newspaper said in today's edition that the CIA tried to establish relations with the ANC 1 month before the South African attack on Matola.

Louis Olivier, the CIA official in Maputo now expelled from Mozambique, befriended members of the ANC refugee community in Mozambique. He made himself out to be a liberal American and a sympathizer with the cause of the South African people and won the friendship of some of the ANC refugees, in particular one whose code name was (Musa).

This individual denounced Louis Olivier as soon as the CIA official started offering money and other presents in exchange for information. Olivier, the CIA official, tried to obtain details of the executive council of the ANC, ANC representatives in Maputo, sites of ANC residences in Mozambique and the assistance given by our country to the ANC. He also asked for information about the type of war equipment held by the ANC and hidden in Mozambique and about ANC bases in South Africa.

BRIEFS

SOVIET DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS--The team of Soviet experts in charge of the study of development possibilities in the Limpopo Valley will concentrate on feasibility studies for irrigation and the production of hydro-electric power. The Mozambique news agency reports that the Soviet experts will also study the feasibility of constructing a number of dams in Mapai with a total capacity of between 10 and 15 cubic km. These dams will control the waters of the Limpopo and considerably increase the area of land available for irrigation. Studies by the Soviet experts will also cover the construction of another dam at the mouth of the Limpopo to prevent the inrush of seawater and thus reduce salinity. The supply of drinking water to about 100 villages along the Limpopo River Basin will also be part of the feasibility studies. Other projects under study by the Soviet experts relate to the problems of transport and communications in the Limpopo River Basin, navigability, the development of a cattle rearing industry and the potential of the artificial lakes which will be created by the dams. [Text] [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 7 Mar 81 LD/EA]

FLOODS IN MANICA PROVINCE--Thousands of people in Tambara District in Manica Province have been affected by flooding of the Zambezi, Pumpua and Muhira Rivers. The floods have damaged farms and homes. Party and government organizations are already mobilizing the people to redouble their efforts to minimize the effects of the floods. Health teams in Tambara District are vaccinating people and distributing medicines to guard against epidemics. The flood waters are, however, subsiding. [Text] [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 10 Mar 81 LD/EA]

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA STATEMENTS ON UN BOYCOTT IMPACT REPORTED

LD122222 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] The South African foreign minister, Mr Roelof Botha, says the South African Government is opposed to boycotts. He said in a television interview that South Africa was not an initiator of sanctions against other countries. South Africa exported its goods to the countries where it obtained the best prices for its products. He said South Africa was a flourishing country from which everyone could benefit. Mr Botha emphasized that it was important that the natural laws of competition, supply and demand, should be taken into account in South Africa as important factors in trade and the economy. He said the South African Government had never threatened sanctions or boycotts against other states. Sanctions against South Africa could be regarded as sanctions against the whole of southern Africa, as South Africa could not be isolated in a boycott. Because of the interdependence of the economies of the countries of southern Africa it was not possible to isolate one of them without hurting the whole. Mr Botha said that the South African Government had made this clear in letters to the secretary general of the United Nations, Dr Waldheim. There was no doubt in the international community or in South Africa's neighboring states about the impact that sanctions against South Africa would have on the whole region. Mr Botha made it clear that he was referring to southern Africa in the economic sense only; broadly speaking, South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Bophuthatswana, Transkei, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and South-West Africa. He went on to say that the General Assembly of the United Nations might well succeed with its built-in majority to impose sanctions against South Africa, but it was his opinion that the decision would not be effective. At the moment, South Africa was in a much stronger position than a few years ago to ward off sanctions. South Africa was well prepared for further sanctions and neighboring states would suffer much, much more damage because they were not in a position to withstand such a shock.

JOHANNESBURG NOTES 'WATERSHED' IN U.S. POLICY

LD121650 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] It is obviously premature, as a State Department spokesman has pointed out, to speculate on initiatives planned by America's new administration in southern Africa. A comprehensive policy package is still being formulated. Hence the Washington reports that the package will include military aid to UNITA, fighting a civil war in Angola against a Marxist regime backed by Cuban troops, are neither being denied nor confirmed.

What is implicitly confirmed, however, is the dramatically different context, the watershed change, as Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger put it, in which President Ronald Reagan is pursuing his foreign policy. In particular the issue gives substance to his government's views on Cuban troops fighting on foreign soil.

That General Haig today talks of countering the terrorism of Moscow's proxies as his first priority is a measure of the watershed that has been reached in America's role in the world.

JOHANNESBURG CITES ANGOLAN EDITORIAL ON UNITA

LD122210 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] An editorial comment carried by Radio Angola says the Reagan administration in the United States is trying to divert attention from the real issues in South-West Africa by inviting a UNITA delegation to visit Washington. In this way the American Government is trying to promote UNITA's influence on the South-West African independence question. The editorial said that by embarking on an adventurous foreign policy, the United States Government was increasing tension in the world. Commenting on the situation in southern Africa, Radio Angola said that the focus of African states and international opinion at large was on the South-West African issue. The Washington Government was trying to delay the real independence of the territory by giving UNITA a say on the South-West Africa issue. The broadcast also said that the Angolan Government did not feel threatened by the UNITA movement in the event of a visit by members of the UNITA to the United States. The Angolan Government wanted to create the right conditions to repatriate thousands of Angolan refugees who had fled to northern South-West Africa.

ARMY REPORTS 58 TERRORISTS KILLED IN 2 WEEKS

LD121554 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Security forces in northern South-West Africa have killed 58 SWAPO terrorists in the past 2 week. The announcement has been made by the senior staff officer, operations, of the South-West Africa territory force, Col (Nikki Roots). He said 43 terrorists had been killed in 13 separate contacts last weekend. South African police had accounted for 60 percent of the deaths.

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH ISRAEL--South African exports to Israel have received a major boost with the newly established credit line agreement between the two countries. Addressing the newly-formed chairman's club of the Western Province Zionist Council in Capetown, the minister of finance, Prof Owen Horwoodn said this stimulus was the result of an increase in the credit line from 37.5 million rand to 50 million rand for three years. He said the South African authorities were also looking urgently at the possibility of making available more coal for export to Israel. Another Israeli request being considered was that the fishing quota in South African waters, should be increased from 2,500 tons to 5,000 tons. [Text] [Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 5 Mar 81 LD]

ANTI-SWAPO ACTIONS--Security forces in South-West Africa have killed 73 SWAPO terrorists in the operational area this month, bringing the total for the first 2 months of this year to 225. This has been announced in Windhoek by the chief of staff, operations, of the South-West African territory force, Brigadier (?Jan Klopper). Speaking at a news conference he said there had been a gradual decrease in terrorist activity in South-West Africa in the past 3 months. Brigadier (Klopper) said eight Ovambo civilians were killed by SWAPO terrorists during the same period. [Text] [Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Mar 81 LD]

ZAMBIA

TIMES OF ZAMBIA RESPONDS TO U.S. ENVOY'S LETTER

LD111122 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0525 GMT 11 Mar 81 CA

[From review of editorials]

[Text] Today's TIMES OF ZAMBIA opinion reads:

Official American denials of the activities of America's Central Intelligence Agency just do not wash. Ambassador Frank Wisner has been so riled by our last Friday's comment on the expulsion of CIA agents from Mozambique that he felt compelled to write to us saying that he took the strongest possible exception to the opinion. President Reagan is fond of prefixing the word "well" to anything important he says. So like him we say to Mr Wisner: Well, it is a good thing to deny CIA activities. Mr Wisner is merely doing his job of protecting American interests. Yet underlining those interests recently President Reagan said the United States could not abandon apartheid South Africa. To her South Africa is a wartime ally, a producer of vital minerals a country that strategically is essential to the free world. Yet proper no official American denial, [as heard] least from Mr Wisner, has been made on that most telling remark by President Reagan.

Our Friday's rather (?mild) opinion on the expulsion of CIA agents from Mozambique has now been strengthened by none other that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs itself. It has confirmed that one of the American diplomats expelled from Mozambique for spying had worked in Zambia from 1977 to 1978 as consular officer in Lusaka. That was at the height of the Rhodesian war, when accurately selected targets in Zambia like refugee camps and the former Mr Joshua Nkomo's house [as heard] were bombed by the Smith regime. Is Mr Wisner going to deny that too? Well, he is free to do so, just as he is free to try to hoodwink us from true American interests spelled out by his president by whitewashing the matter. He does that by citing America's aid to Zambia over the last 3 years. We are aware that blackmail is a popular political game in the United States, but humanist Zambia cannot opt for such friendships. Zambia remains committed to the upholding of human dignity. She does not subscribe to human degradation whatsoever. That is a fact Mr Wisner knows.

Another fact which many people, including him, know is that the CIA has been called America's invisible government, its activities defying the national boundaries. Many people consider its activities as a threat to international peace and security. Many leaders, including those in Mozambique, feel insecure whenever they hear of the clandestine activities of the CIA. Indeed, it was precisely because of that that the government clamped a ban on visits to the Copperbelt by diplomats at the height of the recent labor unrest there. It is an open secret in Lusaka that certain influential unionists held clandestine meetings with top Western diplomats and visited embassies in mysterious circumstances.

(?So) Mr Wisner can rant his head off denying CIA activities in Zambia, but ordinary Zambians, not to mention our politicians, must be on alert at all times against the CIA. At least Mozambique has tried. As a senior diplomat Mr Wisner would have been wise to direct his remarks through the official channel, the Foreign Affairs Ministry, instead of writing to this newspaper, concludes today's TIMES OF ZAMBIA opinion.

KNOWLEDGE OF LESOTHO OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES DENIED

LD121154 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Mar 81 CA

[Text] Zambia has repeated that it will not allow foreigners to use her soil for planning subversive activities for overthrowing African independent countries. Member of the Central Committee Mr Reuben Kamanga made this clear in Lusaka today when he reacted to claims by Mr Moekkhle, that freedom fighters of his Lesotho liberation army were being trained in Zambia and Libya with a view to overthrowing the Lesotho Government of Chief Leabua Jonathan.

Mr Kamanga, who is also chairman of the political and legal committee of the Central Committee, declared that Zambia will not allow anybody to organize violent activities aimed at overthrowing any independent African country. He said the Zambian Government had no knowledge of the Lesotho liberation army operating in the country and warned that the court of law will take its course [as heard] if such people are found. He explained that Mr Moekkhle is in Zambia as a refugee, adding that he did not know whether he is still in the country. Mr Kamanga said he would not allow to carry out any subversive activities against (?this) country.

ZIMBABWE

YUGOSLAV DAILY INTERVIEWS MUGABE ON NONALIGNMENT

LD101206 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1151 GMT 10 Mar 81

["Pool" item]

[Text] Zagreb, 10 March (TANJUG)--The policy of non-alignment is the basis on which Zimbabwe endeavours to build up its position on the international scene and in relations with other countries, Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has said in an exclusive interview to the Yugoslav daily VJESNIK, issued in Zagreb.

Mugabe considers that Zimbabwe must insist on its sovereignty remaining unviolated by other countries' direct or indirect interference in its internal affairs. That is why Zimbabwe establishes relations with other countries on a friendly and neutral basis which ensures the respect for and the recognition of Zimbabwe's right to sovereignty, said Mugabe.

Our agreements on mutual assistance ensure that our friends never become our masters, the Zimbabwe prime minister stressed. This is precisely why Zimbabwe especially values the assistance by Yugoslavia, Romania and China which was extended without any conditions.

Asked about Yugoslav-Zimbabwe relations, Mugabe said that cooperation with Yugoslavia began with the Yugoslav assistance during the Zimbabwe liberation struggle, and friendship with Yugoslavia also developed through this struggle. But that was the first phase of Zimbabwe's struggle and the first phase of cooperation with Yugoslavia, he said. Zimbabwe is now in the second phase of its struggle in which the independent country must become consolidated through the strengthening of economic, technical and cultural relations, said Mugabe. Prime Minister Mugabe expressed the wish for Yugoslavia to participate in the development of Zimbabwe as a partner, an ally and a friend.

MINISTER'S REMARKS ON RETURN FROM AMERICAN TOUR

LD111132 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The minister of local government and housing, Comrade Zvobgo, last night arrived in Salisbury after a 3-week tour of the United States and Latin America.

Addressing a news conference at Salisbury airport, Comrade Zvobgo said that he had been impressed at the success made by Cuba in providing low-cost housing for its people. He praised Cuba's housing program, in which everyone participates. He proposes to send a delegation headed by the deputy minister of local government and housing, Comrade Chikowore, to go and study the country's housing programs.

Comrade Zvobgo said his ministry and the government will not only look at the development of houses in the urban areas. He said the government should also assume a principal role in mobilizing people in the rural areas in order to improve the whole question of human shelter. The minister said outmoded methods of financing housing programs which were forged in the environment of oppression and colonialism must be clearly thrown out of the window. Comrade Zvobgo emphasized that Zimbabwe should break loose from the past and start a new era. He called on all people to contribute fully in bringing about complete change and not wait for the few ministers in offices to effect change.

The minister's tour took him to the United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Jamaica and Cuba. He was accompanied by senior officials from the ministry.

TRADE MINISTER SMITH TO RELINQUISH OFFICE

LD111014 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 10 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, announced today that the minister of trade and commerce, Mr David Smith, is to relinquish his office at the end of next month. Comrade Mugabe explained that Mr Smith will retire on medical grounds. Mr Smith had requested leave of absence pending his retirement and Comrade Mugabe agreed. The prime minister made the announcement in the Cabinet with deep regret because he worked with Mr Smith with pleasure. He also pointed out that r lations between all ministers and Mr Smith were good.

BRIEFS

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH MOZAMBIQUE--The Governments of Zimbabwe and Mozambique today signed a trade agreement. The agreement was signed in Salisbury by the minister of trade and commerce, Mr David Smith, and by the Mozambique minister of foreign trade, Comrade Salomao Munguambe. Speaking at the signing ceremony, the Mozambique minister said that the agreement signed has been the wish of the two countries. He said the aim of their [not further identified] visit was to study Zimbabwe's (?markets) and added that he was pleased to note that their 5-day stay in Zimbabwe has given them more positive results than expected. Zimbabwe will benefit from this agreement in the field of timber, salt and fish. [Text] [Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 7 Mar 81 LD]